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A CENTURY OF LIVING

Acknowledgements

In celebration of the Millennium and the auspicious beginnings of the 21st century, Alberta Community Development requested those Albertans who would be turning 100 years of age or older in the year 2000 to provide a submission to the Century of Living book.

The following collection of stories is offered by Albertans from all cultural and geographical regions of our province. While the stories range from humorous anecdotes to poignant perspectives, they all provide an honest look at life in Alberta during an extraordinary period in history, the 20th century.

While some of the people profiled in this book may have passed on by the time it was published, every effort has been made to present the stories as they were submitted. Efforts were also made to correctly identify and credit the sources of all information used in this book.

Special thanks to Alberta Environment for the design and layout of the book.

For more information about this book, telephone:

*The Alberta Seniors Information Line
toll-free: 1-800-642-3853
(or in the Edmonton area: 427-7876)*

The information provided is subject to the provisions of the pertinent Government Acts and Regulations.

*Published by:
Alberta Community Development
Seniors Services and Housing Division*

ISBN: 0-7785-1545-1
March 2001

A CENTURY OF LIVING

*A compilation of stories
profiling Alberta residents
who turned 100 years of age or older
in the year 2000*



ALBERTA 2000

REMEMBER • CELEBRATE • DREAM • BUILD

Alberta

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledgements

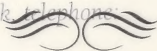
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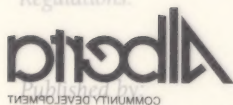
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Introduction

History is more than events and the doings and sayings of dignitaries and prominent personalities. History is people—ordinary people doing ordinary things that can add up to extraordinary achievements.

This book tells some of the stories of a small group of Albertans who have lived 100 years or more. That is extraordinary to begin with, but these women and men have the special distinction of having lived through the entire 20th century.

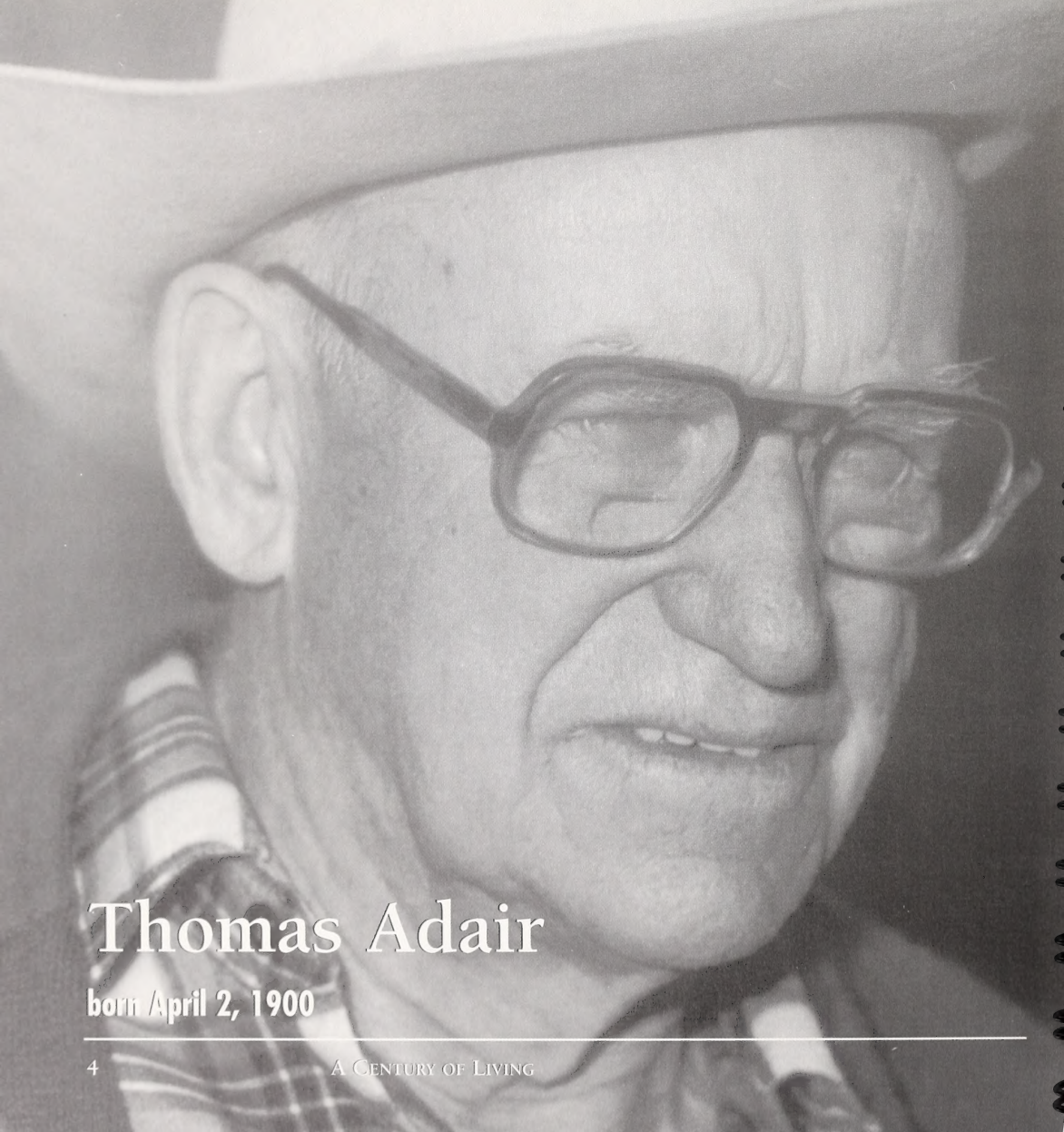
They have been witnesses to history. The 20th century brought more change to more people than any comparable period in history. The simple, down-to-earth heroes and heroines in this book lived through that dramatic era. They have unique insights on history and the future, which some of them share with us here.

They have also been—still are, in fact—makers of history. Their stories offer unique perspectives on their lives and the history of our province and other parts of the world.

Albertans are invited to read, enjoy and celebrate the stories and lives in this book as we cross the threshold between the 20th and 21st centuries and look forward to Alberta's 100th birthday in 2005.

Settling Alberta





Thomas Adair

born April 2, 1900

Tom was six when he arrived out west.

*He remembers: the hitching posts
along 8th Avenue when the family
arrived in Calgary ...*

Tom Adair was born April 2, 1900 in Tilbury, Ontario. He came west with his mother and siblings in the fall of 1906, when he and the family joined their father, Sam Adair.

Sam had traveled ahead in a boxcar to claim a homestead and prepare a small house for his family. All he had brought with him was a bit of machinery. The Adair homestead was located on the N.E. Quarter of Section 20, Range 5, West of the Fifth Meridian, one and half miles west of what is now called Garrington Bridge, approximately 19 miles west of the town of Bowden.

Tom was six when he arrived out west. He remembers: the hitching posts along 8th Avenue when the family arrived in Calgary, his dad meeting them with horses and wagon at the train station in Olds, traveling part way home that day, staying with friends along the way, and continuing on to the homestead the next day. He also remembers fording the Little and Big Red Deer Rivers with the wagon boxes tied down to the running gear and the water being swift and high. He said, "Mother was scared, and so were us kids."

Every August the descendants of the original pioneer Adair families gather near the Little Red Deer River for a family picnic. These reunions have always been special for Tom.

Like his father, Tom loved horses and became a farmer. For many years Tom worked the land with horses and was very proud of his driving teams and saddle horses. Almost no one worked in the fields on Sunday, so the young men would gather at someone's farm for a miniature rodeo, riding bucking broncos, steers and roping calves.

In Tom's youth, he played baseball and in later years enjoyed curling. Tom always had time to help his friends and neighbors and, Tom and his wife Doris had the reputation of being caring and community-minded. Up until Tom's sight failed, his hobbies were leatherwork

and making rugs, saddle pads, etc. out of raw wool.

Tom married Doris Bentley in March of 1929. Their marriage took place the year of the big stock market crash, and like most people of the time, the “crash” had a great influence on their early-married life. They farmed in many locations during their long marriage. Tom’s career also included taking supplies by horses and wagon to a crew building a railway in the Empress area. He has often remarked how anyone could trace his trail across the prairie by the empty sardine cans he left along the way.

Tom was a member of the Calgary Regiment (Tank) Reserve Unit during the Second World War. He also worked at the Royal Air Force training flying school at Bowden, Alberta during the war. In 1992, Tom and Doris were honored to be chosen as Co-Marshals of the Bowden Parade.

Tom was fortunate to travel throughout his life. A trip to the British Isle’s, especially to Ireland, was very special to Tom as he is of Irish/Scottish descent. Tom and his wife Doris also traveled to continental Europe, many parts of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, and coast to coast in Canada. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Tom was a proud, caring father of two children Slim and Bernice. Slim (who passed away in 1976) and his wife Donna (Davidson) gave Tom and Doris two grandchildren (Connie and Doug). Doug married Karen (Wilson) and they have twins (Amy and Tommy.) Bernice married Jim Lenz and from this union Tom and Doris have gained two step grandchildren and three step great grandchildren. Tom passed away on January 16, 2000.





Elizabeth Barclay

born February 14, 1893

When we misbehaved, she would sing,

*“Oh, this is the day they give babies
away, with a half pound of tea!”*

Elizabeth Williams was born on February 14, 1893, in Newbridge, Midlothian, Scotland. She lost her mother at the age of five and was raised by her grandparents, who had a large family; in fact some of them were my mother's age. She always referred to them as her brothers and sisters. Her elementary education took place in the same building with the same teacher through out her school years. (I found that building on a visit to Scotland with my Dad in 1966 - the school had been converted into a pub!)

My Mom and my Dad, William Barclay (1891-1979), were married in the parish of Kirkliston, and two daughters were born there, my older sister and myself. Dad, who was working in a mine at the time, saw no future

there and decided to immigrate to Canada. Mom was pregnant with me and was unable to undertake the voyage. She waited until I was five and a half months old and in October 1912, Mom, with a brand new baby and a toddler, set out to join my dad at Bankhead. To do this, she crossed Scotland to Glasgow, crossed the Atlantic Ocean on Hisperion, landed at Quebec City, on to Montreal, by train to Banff, and by horse and buggy to Bankhead. Ahead of her was one of the coldest winters she had ever experienced, surrounded by towering mountains.

In the flu epidemic of 1919, Mom was one of the very few who didn't get sick. She brought all the rest of us through it. I was seven years old and I can remember her telling us to open wide to get a spoonful of Cascara, but it was really castor oil. She credited the castor oil and the goose grease on our chests for pulling us through the flu. She clamped her hand over our mouths and warned us not to tell the others about the castor oil.

My mother sang beautifully and all her life entertained family and friends with her (mostly Scottish) songs. In Bankhead, soon pregnant again, she was asked to sing. Not wanting to flaunt her condition, she positioned herself behind the piano! She sang constantly around the house. When we misbehaved, she would sing, “Oh, this is the day they give

babies away, with a half pound of tea!" (It didn't scare us much). My mother sang well into her eighties.

Dad began studying upon arrival in Canada, and, through all our growing years, I remember my mother saying, "Sh-s-s-, Dad's studying". Over the next few years and many moves, he achieved the necessary qualifications for Fireboss, Pit Boss and Mine Manager. In his spare time, he taught himself to play the fiddle and played the drums in a pipe band.

After two years at Bankhead and saving \$800.00, Dad took up homestead land in Athabasca. This was a mistake. Dad was no farmer and the conditions had been very misrepresented. So it was back to the mines that he had left Scotland to get away from, first to Edmonton, then to Drumheller, where my parents lived until Dad retired. During those years three more daughters were born, one died as an infant of "summer complaint", probably "dysentery" we were told. When Dad retired, my parents moved to Lethbridge to be closer to family.

Mom was a very good cook. I do not have her short bread recipe, but when she showed us how to make it, she said, "work it with your hands until it feels right." Her stews always had dumplings on top. Sunday dinners were a special meal and on Mondays (wash day), the leftovers were every bit as good.

Mom is presently living in the Edith Cavell Centre in Lethbridge, its oldest resident. She is in a wheelchair and does not know us by name now. But she chatters away and sings for me in a voice gone quivery.

I ran across this recently, having forgotten the source; it describes my Mom, *"You made me work when I felt tired; you encouraged me when I couldn't see past some trivial setback; you built me up when I lost faith in myself."*

Mom and Dad were married for 59 years. Their descendants include five daughters (one deceased), 13 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, and 48 great-great grandchildren. Mom passed away on January 1, 2000.

Lily Barr

born October 22, 1900

*The first winter in Redcliff we lived in
tents along the main street.*

I was born on October 22, 1900 in Woolston, England. My father Albert Oakland came to Canada in 1905 with his three oldest sons. In 1906 my mother, Emily, joined them, bringing seven younger children. We traveled by boat, then had a land journey to Broadview, Saskatchewan. My mother told me I was so seasick she thought they would have to bury me at sea.

Later we moved to Taber, Alberta and Albion, B.C. We finally settled in Redcliff, Alberta in 1912. The day we came into town they were blowing a gas well for the first of July celebrations. The first winter in Redcliff we lived in tents along the main street. The older boys had to walk about one mile to the river for water.

In 1918, I married Clyde Barr. Two years prior, Clyde was asked to come to Redcliff to join Dominion Glass as a glass blower. Clyde

and I had one daughter, Shirley. I lived in Redcliff until 1992, then moved to Fort Saskatchewan to be with my daughter.

My life has always been very active. My hobbies have been sewing, crocheting, tatting, knitting, fossil collecting and leather carving. I still crochet baby afghans for the Hospital Auxiliary. I like some sports including baseball, softball, tennis, and golf.

I'm a member of the United Church of Canada and sang in the choir for many years. I've also been involved with Rebecca Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star and am a lifetime member of the Ladies Auxiliary to Canadian Legion.



Nellie A. Bunnett

born January 14, 1898

Nellie devoted her life to the Salvation

Army working in various cities from

Vancouver, B.C. to St. John, N.B.

primarily in Grace Hospitals.

Nellie Bunnett was born in London, England on January 14, 1898. She was the eldest of five children when the family immigrated to Canada in 1910. Nellie could remember the St. Lawrence River and the train trip across Canada, with the family settling in the Calgary area.

The family's connection to the Salvation Army resulted in Nellie going to their training college in Winnipeg in the fall of 1918. Nellie devoted her life to the Salvation Army working in various cities from Vancouver, British

Columbia to St. John, New Brunswick primarily in Grace Hospitals. She retired in January 1958 with the rank of Brigadier. However, she continued to work another five years. Her last position was in the Sunset Lodge in Calgary.

During her lifetime, Nellie's interest in travelling found her in many places including Britain, Canada, and the United States, including Hawaii and Australia. Nellie was a busy volunteer for many years, visiting hospitals and nursing homes. She was also involved in the Home League and the League of Mercy.

Nellie had a keen sense of humor and loved to be involved in group activities. A love for the outdoors found her in the park of Mayfair Care Centre during the summer months. Nellie lived at Mayfair since June of 1995, taking part in the knitting group, book club, and Sunday church services.

Special times were visits from her youngest sister, Vera Lundy, the only other surviving family member, longtime volunteer friends, Salvation Army friends and her nieces living in Calgary and British Columbia. Nellie was 102 when she passed away on April 14, 2000.



James Carr

born February 3, 1899

As it was in those days for many babies,

James was not expected to live

but 100 years later he is still

celebrating birthdays.

James was born in an old Irish cottage in Tulnafoile, Ireland on February 3, 1899 with just his grandmother to assist with the birth. As it was in those days for many babies, James was not expected to live but 100 years later he is still celebrating birthdays.

His early days were spent in Ireland and at the age of 26 he came to Canada settling in Alberta in 1928. Upon arriving in Edmonton, James went to work as a farm laborer on the surrounding farms. The Depression of the 1930s was very hard on James. He had married Lucy Williams of Riviere Qui Barre in 1933 and began having a family.

Work was hard to find. James went to wherever he could find a job, which often took him away from his family. He went to work for McGregor Telephones. His job took him through many towns and villages of Alberta putting in power. James worked on the power lines that originally went into Waterton Lakes National Park. In the 1930s, he also worked on the railroads until he found work in Edmonton at Burns Packing Plant. During the Second World War, James was an Air Raid Warden for a district in northeast Edmonton. He was responsible to see that only essential people were on the street during an air raid warning, and that all the houses were blacked out.

James was a great man for walking. He loved to walk everywhere and would often walk from north Edmonton to uptown and back. Along with his brother-in-law, Frank McConville, James built his own house that the family lived in for 40 years. Like all Irish men James loved his potatoes and Irish music. His home had an abundance of both for many years. James and his wife Lucy raised their nine children in the St. Alphonsus parish. In 1990, James and Lucy moved to St. Albert where James lives today. He has 17 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A black and white portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly, light-colored hair. She is wearing large, dark-rimmed glasses and a light-colored, possibly striped, collared shirt. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle smile. The background is out of focus, showing some vertical lines.

Sylvia Conger

born November 23, 1899

*She enjoyed living on the coal branch
and raising her children, ...*

Sylvia Conger (maiden name Carlson) was born in Jemmland, Sweden on November 23, 1899. When she was five years old she came to Montreal by ship with her mother, her four sisters and her twin brother. They traveled across Canada to Vancouver by train and then to Custer, Washington, United States, to join their father. In 1915, the family moved to the Camrose area and lived on a farm. When she had finished school, she moved to Edmonton to cook and look after the children of wealthy families.

In 1926, she went to Mercoal, a coal mining town southwest of Edson. There she met and married Edwin David Conger, who owned the general store. They had three children. She enjoyed living on the coal branch and raising her children, camping, playing tennis, and playing bridge.

In 1947, her husband died after 20 years of marriage and she moved to Edmonton with her three children, Lyle, Doreen, and Garnet. Lyle passed away, but she is still left with six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She liked to cook, and everyone enjoyed her homemade cinnamon buns. She was active in the Eastern Star and is now a life member. She is a long-standing member of the Robertson Wesley United Church. She did volunteer work at the Charles Camsell Hospital for many years.



Mildred Delight Cook

born July 24, 1899

*... Mildred had many adventures on the
homestead. One day, she frightened
away a visiting black bear by waving a
white dishtowel at it!*

Mildred Delight Parker was born to Jeanette and Charles Parker on July 24, 1899, in the town of Porter, New York, United States. In 1913, Mildred's father and mother moved their family of five young children west to Edmonton, Alberta. They lived there one year; then, with the addition of another baby, they came to the tiny hamlet of Onoway. In December they moved onto their homestead, living in a rough log cabin 10 feet wide by 20 feet long.

It was a long, cold winter, with the family barely having enough to eat. Along with the hard work, Mildred had many adventures on the homestead. One day, she frightened away a visiting black bear by waving a white dishtowel at it!

At the age of 16, Mildred met Jack Oslund. They married in December 1915. Mildred and Jack had four children, June, Jack, Maurice and Joyce, as well as two little boys who died in infancy. For many years, the family lived on a farm north of Onoway.

Mildred seldom got away from home, so Jack suggested that she and the children go visit her sister at Seba Beach for a week. While she was gone, their house and all its contents were lost in a fire. Mildred and the children stayed at Seba Beach until their new home was built.

Then Jack developed cancer on his face. He suffered for seven long years before passing away at the age of 42. Jack's elderly father lived with the family at this time and Mildred continued to look after him until he died a year and a half later. By now, it was the Dirty '30s, the depression years. Even though it was hard to make ends meet, Mildred was able to support her family by selling eggs and hogs. Eventually, Mildred married Thomas Cook. They had two daughters, Catherine and Sharon.

When Canada declared war on Germany, in 1939, it affected the whole family. Mildred's husband, Tom, a veteran of the First World War, joined the Air Force. Mildred's son, Jack, enlisted in the army, and her daughter, Joyce, joined the Women's Division of the army. By this time the oldest daughter, June, had married Frank Galliford. After the war, Jack married Elsie Moren; Maurice married Ethel Birkett, and Joyce married Clifford Pederson.

Mildred and Tom sold the family farm in 1953 as Tom's health was failing. The couple bought a house in the Village of Onoway. Tom lived only nine months after they moved, leaving Mildred with two young daughters. Mildred was able to supplement her veterans' allowance by taking in sewing for the public. Their daughters, Catherine and Sharon, eventually graduated from the Onoway High School. Catherine trained as a nurse and married William Speers. Sharon went into banking; she married Walter Breitzkreuz.

Over the years, Mildred was able to travel throughout Canada and the United States, yet she always preferred her home in Onoway. She managed to live on her own until she was 96. Four years ago, she moved to the Dr. Keir Care Centre in Barrhead. Although confined to a wheelchair because of arthritis, Mildred is still bright and alert.

Mildred raised six children and now has 16 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Mildred always told her children she would live to be 100. Her courage, her determination and her commitment to her family enabled her to endure the trials that came her way. She always kept a positive attitude; she believed in honesty to herself and others. You always know where you stood with her! Mildred took simple pleasure in her daily life. She was a wonderful cook and bread maker. She loved entertaining the whole family at the holidays. Mildred Delight Cook exemplifies the true spirit of the pioneers who opened up this part of the country.

*This article was written August 2, 1999 by
Lorraine Oullette for the Lac Ste. Anne Bulletin.*





Lilian Rose DeMott

born January 2, 1898

*Each time the wheels fell into the cracks,
one nearly tumbled off the wagon.*

Lilian Rose DeMott was born on January 2, 1898 in Handsworth, England. She was married for 30 years to Thomas DeMott, from 1921 to 1951. She is the proud mother of four children. She also has 13 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

Back Over the Trail (Excerpts from her own personal story and presented in the *Michichi History Book*, 1970).

My parents Joe and Rose Dewsbury, brother Wilfred, sister Doris and myself came to Canada in 1907 from Walsall, Staffordshire England. Another sister, Gladys, stayed in England and then joined the family later. We had a rough trip over the ocean, mother, sister and I were sick for most of the voyage.

We arrived in Calgary after a tiresome train ride from Quebec. We had to sit on wooden slatted seats. I remember seeing little brown animals all along the railway. We would call out, "There's another rat, and another!" until a gentleman informed us they were gophers.

After a brief stay in Calgary we moved to Crossfield for a time, eventually ending up

on Dad's half section in Mecheche. There was no town and Munson was just starting up in tents. The ride over Pop's lease was one of the roughest, over turtlebacks (a formation on the prairies). Each time the wheels fell into the cracks, one nearly tumbled off the wagon. In fact, we walked a great deal.

I remember nearly every spring at breakup the Mecheche creek would flood across the flats. Large slabs of ice would be left upon the banks with many frozen fish, mostly pike. We used to catch fish in a small wooden box with slats across the bottom, and out it in a narrow spot in the creek where the water fell about two feet, we would also snare them. The water was very clear and teeming with fish. The creek valley provided much wild fruit, such as blackcurrants, raspberries, strawberries and gooseberries. Mushrooms grew everywhere. Mosquitoes were very numerous. Smudges were built in pails for protection not only for us, but also the animals. I would put paper around my legs inside my stockings.

I was very fond of horseback riding. We overcame our fear and learned to harness and drive horses and milk cows. Changes began taking place. We watched railroads being built, cars and trucks being used, electricity, running water, and phones all taking their place on the farm.





Annie Desbiens (nee Fortuna)

born June 16, 1900

*They came back to stay three days
before the Notorious Frank Slide, ...*

Annie Desbiens was born on June 16, 1900, at Twine Bridges Montana, to Adam and Susanna (Ondis) Fortuna. Annie came to Alberta with her parents in April of 1901. They took up a homestead east of Pincher Creek, in the Springridge area. Her father worked in the mine at Frank, Alberta; they lived there for the winter and moved back to the homestead each spring. They came back to stay three days before the notorious Frank Slide, her father said he did not like the “noisy mountain”. Annie attended Springridge School and also helped her father on the farm.

On November 19, 1923 Annie married Xavier Desbiens. They had five children, Joseph, Francis, Alfred, Annie, and Helen. The family has now blessed Annie with 16 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren. Annie and Xavier were married for over 50 years. Xavier passed away in July of 1974.

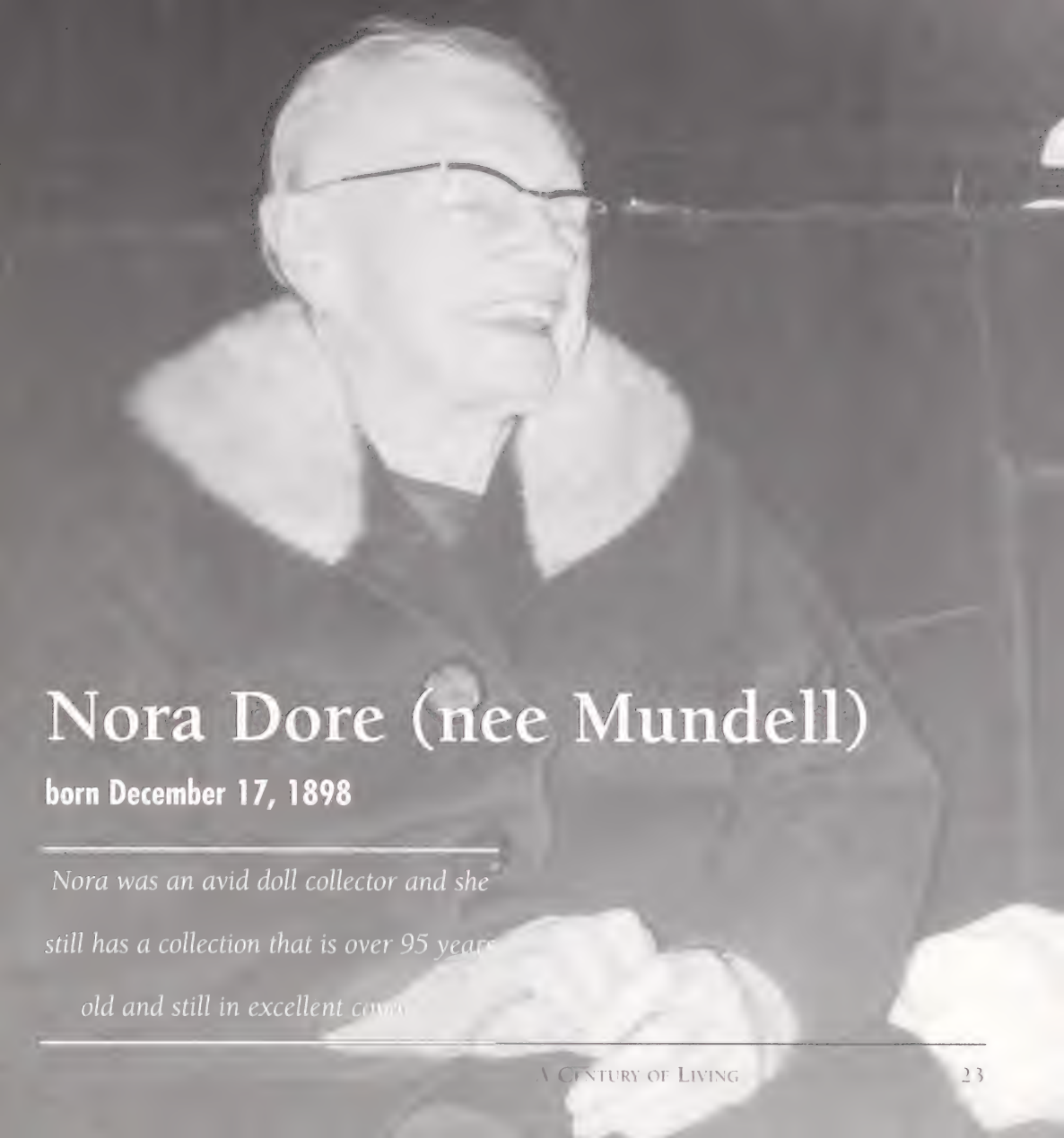
Annie is a lifetime member of many clubs and auxiliaries. The Catholic Womens League, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Royal Legion #43, the Hospital Auxiliary, and the Fred

Huddlestun Seniors Centre. Annie enjoyed every minute she spent volunteering. She liked to travel and spent many bus trips with the seniors from Fred Huddlestun Seniors Centre. Annie also loved to bowl. She bowled in the Ladies League, The Golden Age League and the Farmers league. She has many trophies for this and also for fishing derby until she was 94 years old.

Annie was well known for her crafts; tin can furniture, rug weaving on a buggy wheel, hooking and braiding rugs, plastic flower arrangements, plastic canvas work, knitting, crocheting and making bead animals. Annie loved her flowerbeds and gardens, she was always feeding her grandchildren the canning she made from her garden. In addition to her canning some of Annie's favorite recipes were; stews, baked beans, homemade breads and cinnamon buns, lemon pie, angel food cake, pickles, relishes and jams.

Annie lived on the farm from 1923-1960. In 1981, she sold the farm to her daughter and son-in-law and moved into town. Annie now lives at the Pincher Creek Hospital.





Nora Dore (nee Mundell)

born December 17, 1898

*Nora was an avid doll collector and she
still has a collection that is over 95 years
old and still in excellent condition*

Nora was born in McGregor, Manitoba to John and Jesse Mundell on December 17, 1898. Nora's father and mother owned a livery stable, dray wagons and ran a boarding house. They exchanged the livery stable and dray wagons for three-quarters, on the Sheep Creek (now called the Sheep River), west of Okotoks. In 1905, Nora arrived in the Northwest Territories before Alberta was a province. She explains that the area was quite settled. The farm they bought was named Alva Coma. Nora, her sister and brother went to school at the Big Rock School, west of Okotoks, near the Big Rock. Nora has now lived in the Big Rock for 95 years. Nora was an avid doll collector and she still has a collection that is over 95 years old and still in excellent condition.

Nora married her sister's widower, Reg Dore in 1943 and gained a stepdaughter at the same time. She never had any children of her own. Reg was a Welshman and they traveled to Wales six times. They also traveled to Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands. Nora and Reg moved to the Sandstone Lodge in Okotoks when it opened in 1990: Nora lived there until 1998. Reg and Nora were married for over 55 years when Reg passed away July 25, 1999 at the age of 97. He had four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Nora now resides in the High River Nursing Home. She walked with the aid of a walker for several years. Her health is still very good but her memory does fail her from time to time.

Nora's favorite recipe is Jam Buns:

Jam Buns

*2 cups of flour
3 level tsp. of baking powder
2 tbsp. of sugar
Pinch of salt
1 cup of shortening*

Mix ingredients together like pastry, then add 1 egg, 1-tsp. vanilla, and 1/2 cup of milk. Mix together well. Roll out dough as thick as for a piecrust. Cut into squares; place a dab of jam in the centre of each square. Fold the corners up and pinch the edges well together. Bake in gem tins.

Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes, or until lightly browned.



Laura Fetaz

born October 9, 1900

*I was quite disappointed when we saw
our new home for the first time.*

I was born on October 9, 1900 in St. Louis de Blandford, Quebec where my father, Victor Dion, had a small grocery store. For many years, he dreamed of going to western Canada. Although most of the homesteads in Alberta had been taken, my father managed to purchase six quarters of land in central Alberta; land that originally belonged to the missionary priests. In April of 1916, when I was 15, my father and mother, two brothers and four sisters took the train to Alberta and four days later arrived at Castor, one of the nearest towns to our land. My brothers traveled by freight train bringing our furniture and five horses.

I was quite disappointed when we saw our new home for the first time. The rustic eight room, two story log house, that had been abandoned by the missionary priests for four years, needed considerable repairs to make it livable. For the first few months, my mother refused to unpack all but the necessities as she was determined to return to Quebec that fall. Little by little we all learned to adapt to life on the farm.

As soon as we were settled, I went to the Castor Convent for six months to learn English. Our lives soon fell into the natural rhythm of farm and family life. We had settled in a French community called Tinchebray

(named by the priests from France) and had French neighbors from a nearby district called Notre Dame de Savoie. For amusement, we would gather at the school to play card games and attend dances. We enjoyed picnics and Sports Days in the summer. In the winter, we used to go sleigh riding and tobogganing in a river valley.

On January 3, 1921, I married my husband, Albert Fetaz. We were blessed with three boys and a girl. My early married life was busy taking care of the children, milking cows, gardening, raising chickens and turkeys, and cooking for my family and hired help (especially during the fall harvest). I spent many hours canning fruits from our orchard and vegetables from our garden, and picking pails of saskatoon and chokecherry berries for canning and making wine. I also loved to knit and crochet. We worked hard and never went hungry in the Dirty '30s, as fish was always plentiful in the Battle River.

In 1975, my husband and I moved to St. Albert to be near our daughter. My husband died in 1977; we were married for 56 years. I have been blessed with a long and full life and have seen many changes over the years. I have four children, 15 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and four great-great granddaughters.





**Anna Marie Elizabeth
Giebelhaus**

born November 10, 1899

*I walked summer and winter, to the
Adams School where I had my first eight
grades of education.*

My parents, Adam and Anna Katherina from Russia, arrived in Edmonton in April 1899. My grandparents, George and Margaretha Giebelhaus, my Uncle John and Aunt Katharina (Kay) accompanied them. They settled and lived together in the Stony Plain area.

I was born November 10, 1899 in Stony Plain, Alberta. I lived there until 1903 when my parents and grandparents moved to the Holden area where they lived on my grandfathers homestead on a hill beside the Vermilion River. In approximately 1904 my father moved his family to his own homestead a few miles away. We crossed the river by raft. I still remember dad building a bridge of stones over the river. Later, when the road was built, there was a wooden bridge built. My grandparents wanted me to stay with them, and

my parents reluctantly let me stay. I was very fond of grandmother and did many chores for her. I walked summer and winter, to the Adams School where I had my first eight grades of education.

My Uncle John married in 1914 and therefore my mother demanded that I come home, as I was her child. I was about 14 years old; this broke my young heart, as I was very devoted to my grandmother. I attended the Salem Reformed Church with my parents. When I was 17 years old I went to work in Vegreville for awhile. Later I worked in Edmonton, for three years I supervised unemployed girls and did housekeeping for the YWCA.

Thereafter, several of us decided to go to Bible school. Helen McRae (still a good friend), Norma Cutbertson and I ventured to Vancouver where we studied at the Vancouver Bible Institute. I took night classes for two winters as I worked in the daytime to finance my schooling. Upon returning to Edmonton, I was the meat cook at Alberta College for a short time. After that, I did housework for various people until I retired in 1958. I lived by myself in an apartment until my doctor told me that I could not live alone any longer.

I now reside at Capital Care Norwood
Extended Care facility.



Olive Hope Halladay

born August 22, 1900



*If they were lucky, they found a farm
that would trade milk for bread.*

Olive Hope Halladay was born on August 22, 1900, in Quincy Massachusetts, United States to Canadian parents John and Barbara Miller. They moved back to Nova Scotia, Canada in 1902 and in 1904 settled on a farm north of Brandon, Manitoba. Olive's mother died in 1906. Shortly thereafter an aunt came from Colorado Springs, Colorado and took the three children back with her. Irwin was seven years old, Olive, six and Verda was two. Olive's dad remarried in 1912 and brought the family back to Manitoba. Olive's brother Irwin was killed in the First World War. Olive came to Edmonton during the First World War in the winter of 1916/17 and stayed with her aunt while her uncle was overseas. She worked at the GWG factory. She fell in love with Alberta; the winter was lovely and you didn't get winters like that in Manitoba.

She corresponded with a pen pal, Arthur Halladay, through the Primrose Club of the "Family Herald". Arthur worked at custom harvesting in the fall of 1920 to make enough money to take the train to Brandon to meet Olive. They were married the next day! They took the train back to Millet, Alberta and there they got a ride with the mail carrier on horse and buggy to Mulhurst, at Pigeon Lake. From there, Arthur walked the eight miles on bush trails to his homestead. He went back the next day, with a team and buggy, to pick up his bride and take her home. They stayed on this homestead from 1920 to 1930. This area became part of the Thorsby district. By this time they were blessed with five children.

They bought their first car in 1927. By 1930 they didn't have any money to run it, so it stayed in a buggy shed until the eldest son started driving in 1937. In 1930 they moved three and a half miles from their first homestead where they had purchased 80 acres. Their sixth child was born at the new homestead. They now had a family of four boys and two girls.

In 1936, Olive's stepmother died in Manitoba and her father wanted the family to come back and help farm the three quarters of land he had. In February of 1936, Olive and Arthur sold some cattle and loaded the family,

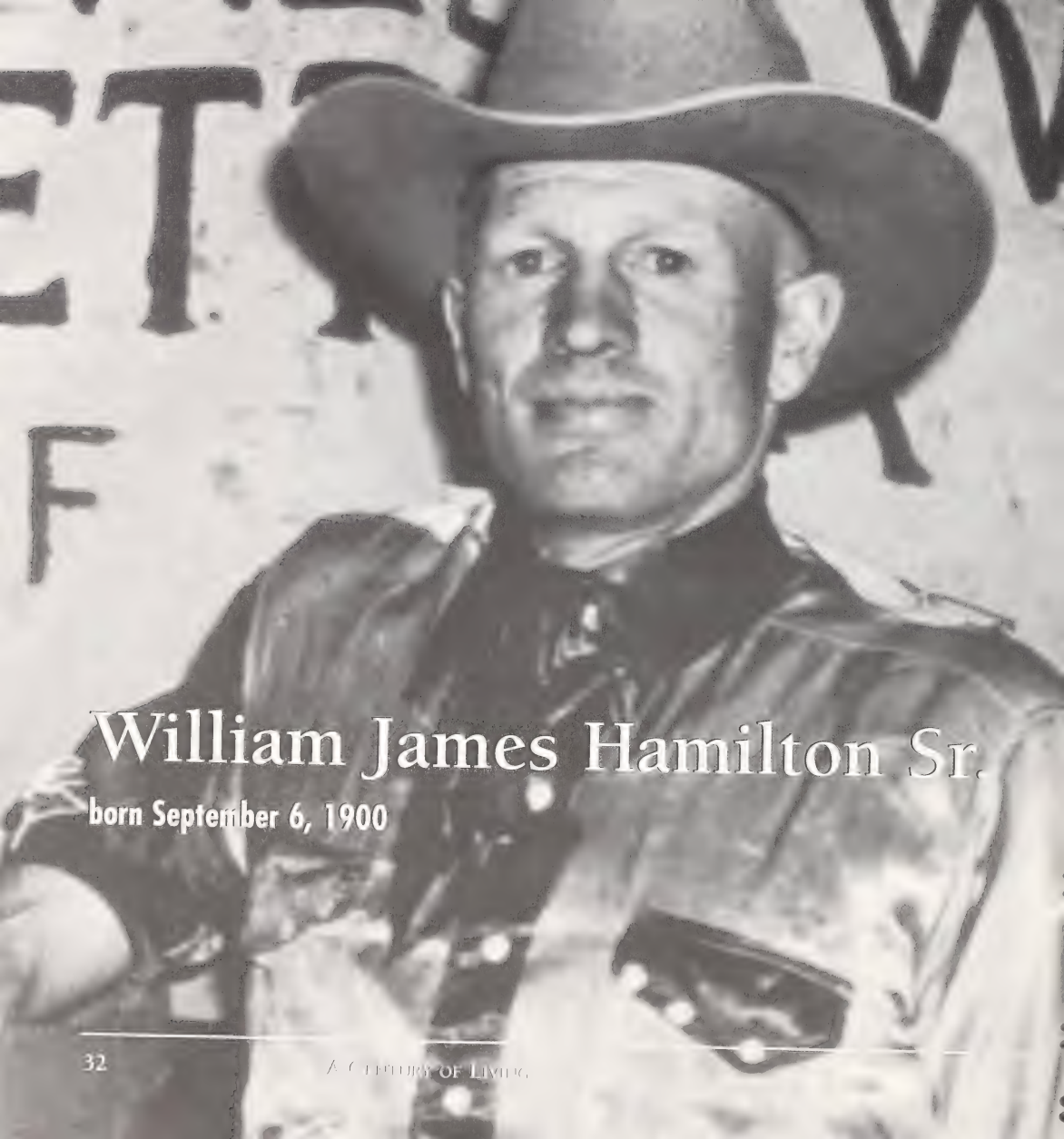
the rest of the cattle, pigs, horses and belongings on the train and moved to Manitoba. They only spent one year there. The drought was so bad that the family didn't have enough garden to last until early fall. There was no way to make extra money, like fishing or lumber camps; those opportunities were back in Alberta. Olive and Arthur's seventh child, a daughter was born in October 1936. The winter was long and cold and, being disillusioned, Olive and Arthur decided to return to Alberta. Arthur took a truckload of cattle to Winnipeg to sell. He got \$48.00. That was all the cash they had for the 900-mile trip. They built a caboose on a Bennett wagon, made from salvaged tin from a building that the wind had torn down. So they loaded their meager belongings on a second wagon, hitched up their four horses and Arthur drove the first wagon and Olive the second. Seven kids, seven heads of cattle, one lamb, one colt and a crate of two dozen chickens headed west to Alberta. The older children walked and chased the cattle. In Saskatchewan in 1937, because of the drought, there were many vacant farms along the trail. No one went hungry. Biscuits and fresh milk were the staples. If they were lucky, they found a farm that would trade milk for bread. In the middle of Saskatchewan they were out of money and were having trouble with the Bennett wagon. The makeshift tires wouldn't stay on the rims. Arthur was very discouraged and ready to give up. Olive kept up her determination;

Alberta was home and she was going to see that they got back there. Things worked out and 90 days later they were home. When the horses were 20 miles from home they stepped up the pace, knowing they were back on familiar ground.

Things improved on the farm, they bought the adjoining 80 acres, and the eighth (last) child, a son, was born. The eldest son went off to war and returned safely. Arthur's health failed, he became incapacitated. Olive looked after him at home until her health was in jeopardy. Arthur then had to go to a care centre and died in 1973. Olive's oldest daughter died in 1978. Her other losses included her sister, two sons-in-law, four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Olive drove a car and stayed on the farm until 1991. She traveled extensively, taking tours to the United States, across Canada, to Alaska and visited family in the Canary Islands and Egypt. Olive has made her home at Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg since 1991 and still enjoys sightseeing tours, sunrises and sunsets, changing seasons and takes pride in most activities provided at the manor.

Olive's extended family has now grown to 42 grandchildren, 69 great grandchildren and 27 great-great grandchildren.



William James Hamilton Sr.

born September 6, 1900

*... he became both a skilled horseman
and land manager.*

William James Hamilton was born September 6th, 1900 in Calgary, Northwest Territories, the son of Irish/Scottish parents William and Isabella Hamilton. Bill moved with his family to the homestead southwest of DeWinton owned by his Uncle Sam Hamilton in 1910. Sam settled there in 1881, the first homestead in that area. It has remained in the Hamilton family for 118 years; the original log house has been a family residence for five generations of Hamiltons.

Bill's lifestyle consisted of ranching and mixed farming and as such he became both a skilled horseman and land manager. Bill was rejected from the armed forces during the First World War because of a severe childhood injury to his foot. His contribution to the war effort was buying remount horses for the Calgary headquarters.

Bill took part in many local sports. His great love was baseball; he was backcatcher for the Sodbuster's team. He played hockey, as well as horseshoes and was a great dancer. He and his brother Sam entered a chuck wagon in the Calgary Stampede and won two championships, 1937 and 1939. He was also

involved in all community functions such as school councilor, road maintenance (with horses), as well as involvement in the hall and church.

Bill did not make a name for himself in the entertainment or political world but in his own quiet way made a significant contribution to the farming and ranching community as well as the history of his area by building and maintaining a prosperous ranching operation.

In 1939, Bill married Ruth Johnson and together in their 62 years of marriage they have raised three children, Pearl Isabella, William James Jr., and Samuel Hunter. All three children are actively involved in the farming, ranching, and rodeo lifestyle, following in the footsteps of their Dad. Their children have given Bill and Ruth seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

From the walking plow to watching a man take his first step on the moon on television, the tremendous advances in technology, medicine and globalization have made life for Bill very interesting and definitely challenging.

Bill and his wife Ruth continue to live in Alberta, making their home in High River, still close to the original homestead. He remains interested in sports, rodeo and current events and still keeps a watchful eye on what goes on back at the ranch.



Frances Alice Harper

born December 17, 1897

*... she began her private self-education,
which she continued all her life.*

Frances was born in Leicestershire, England on December 17, 1897. In 1904, she immigrated to Canada with her parents, Ada and Edwin Bradley, who took up a homestead between Curlew and Trochu in the Northwest Territories. In 1905, the Northwest Territories were separated and the western part where Frances lived became the province of Alberta.

There were no married settlers in the area where the family settled so no schools were built. As transportation was poor and money was scarce Frances was unable to go to school. At seven years old she became an assistant farmhand and an assistant to her mother in the kitchen. It was at that time she began her private self-education, which she continued all her life.

In 1907, Frances' father had a heart attack and had to give up farming. The family moved to Stettler where her father got a job on the CPR as a Signalman and Frances started school. The family lived in a little two-room house with no water, gas or electricity. However, they were able to get water from a neighbor's well or by collecting rainwater. In 1912 Frances' father died of a heart attack leaving her mother with four children ages 14, five, three, and one.

Frances' father's last check from the CPR was only \$40 and her mother's widows pension was only \$28 a month therefore, Frances had to drop out of school and take a job in a cigar factory to help her mother support the family. When the cigar factory closed two years later she took a job at the Stettler Hotel.

In 1921, Frances married Alick Harper who was a salesman for the Remington Rand Typewriter Company, and they moved to Calgary. After they were married Frances' in-laws moved in with the newlyweds. Frances helped look after her in-laws until her father-in-law died of a stroke in 1922 and her mother-in-law died of cancer in 1936. Frances also looked after her husband who was ill for many years and her mother who lived to be 96.

Frances had three sons who earned their way through university. They all received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Alberta and all received their PhDs: one from the University of Wisconsin, one from Washington State University, and one from the University of Iowa. Frances' sons became research scientists and one was also a professor. She has also been blessed with six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

When Frances was in her '70s she went with her two sisters to England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Later they went to Nova Scotia to visit their brother. These two trips were highlights for Frances.

Frances lived in her own little house with a nice garden until she was 99 but now resides in an Extendicare in Lethbridge. She has enjoyed her senior years greatly and has been lucky to have good health all her life.



Christine Holtsbaum

born January 18, 1898

*... she contributed to the financial
support for the education of younger
family members.*

On January 18, 2000, Christine Holtsbaum turned 102 years of age! Christine was the fifth eldest of eight children of Kristjan (Christian) and Haldora Jonason who emigrated from Iceland in 1894. She was born in The Narrows, Manitoba on January 18, 1898. The family moved to Point Roberts and Vancouver, British Columbia. In 1905, they relocated to Red Deer; the same year Alberta became a province. During her school years Christine was twice awarded The Red Deer School's Academic Medal as top student. She loved music and was the organist for family and group singsongs.

A 1915-1916 graduate of the Camrose Normal School, Christine first taught in Champion, Everett and Wainwright. While working, she contributed to the financial support for the education of younger family members. In 1915, she obtained her certificate qualifying her as an Instructor in Physical Training, an indication of her love of sports. By 1920, she was teaching in Provost, Alberta. Christine acted in numerous successful amateur theatrical productions. While in Wainwright, she met her future husband, Alberta Provincial Police (APP) Constable, William (Bill) Holtsbaum. After they were married in 1922, they settled in Provost where daughter, Lois, was born in April 1924 and son, Brian, in September 1936. Since, at that time, a married female teacher could not hold a regular teaching position, Christine became a substitute teacher.

Provost was a small community then many miles away from a large centre. The Holtsbaums became very active in the local community with Bill serving two terms as mayor. Both Christine and Bill were active members of the Order of the Eastern Star, in which she holds a Life Membership. In 1999, the Order of the Eastern Star organization, for men and women, was the largest fraternal organization in the world. The Holtsbaums were dedicated members of the Provost St. Paul's Anglican Church. Christine was one of the small groups of hard working members of

the Women's Auxiliary. They worked to support the church, maintain the vicarage and they were instrumental in paying off the mortgage for the new vicarage and church renovations.

The Holtsbaum home was always open to guests, including, over the years, five different Right Reverend Anglican Bishops. Christine was a member of the Women's Musical Club, which was organized in 1930. In July 1931, they had one of the first 20 cottages at Delberry Lake, now an Alberta provincial park. Many of the cottagers' children learned their swimming skills in Christine's swimming classes. She and Bill were both excellent bridge players and avid readers, belonging to a winter Book Club. They took in the weekly movies at the Royal Theatre, and enthusiastically danced till dawn at the big annual public dances.

During the war, Christine was an active worker for the Canadian Red Cross, preparing for servicemen overseas and working in the Blood Donor Clinic. From 1941 to 1945, the family moved to Calgary, Regina and Edmonton while Bill served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and, when the war was over, they returned to Provost.

Chris and Bill were a real team. They were loving and supportive of each other and their children. Christine took great pride in her husband's and their children's accomplishments.

She was especially proud in 1954 when the President of the Air Cadet League of Canada recognized their work by inviting Bill (and her), Chairman of No. 237 Provost Squadron (and the outstanding Alberta Sponsoring Committee Chairman), to address the Annual Meeting at the prestigious Seigneur Club, Montabello, Quebec in February. On May 10th, Bill was then awarded with Her Majesty The Queen's Coronation Medal.

After her husband's death in 1958, Christine made Edmonton her home. She maintained her own apartment until she was 96 years of age. During these Edmonton years she was an active supporter of St. Paul's United Church. She lived in Canterbury Court until 1996, when she had a hip replacement. At the

end of the year she moved to the Edmonton Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital, where she now resides. Although Christine is confined to a wheelchair, she is constantly on the move. In 1999, at 101 years of age, she attended a week's camp at Camp He Ho Ha on Lake Isle. She is a Life Member of the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association.

Christine was brought up in a home with parents who impressed on their children the importance of Christian living. She has always lived by those Christian values, and as Matriarch of the Jonason-Holtsbaum families, she serves as a wonderful example for all. Her two children have blessed her with six grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.



Katie Reimer Klassen

born August 31, 1894

At 105, she still sings “Got ist de Leibe”

(God is Love).

Katie Reimer was born in Segrodga, Russia on August 31, 1894 to Katarina and Bernhard Reimer. Katie's mother died when she was four or five years old. When her father remarried, she found it very hard to accept a new mother. When Katie went to school with her sisters and brothers, they noticed that her oldest sister was not able to keep up with her schoolwork, so Mary was kept at home and Katie was then asked to stay home as well. It has been said that her brother Abraham was punished severely in school one day. He died the next day. That is the way it was done in those days.

As Katie grew up, she worked for different families and helped wherever she could. Money wasn't worth anything at that time. At one place where she worked, she got a big roll of Rubles for her work, but seeing it wasn't worth anything, she stuffed it all behind a cupboard and left.

In 1911, Katie gave birth to her only son, Henry, and she found it very hard to support a child and make a living for herself. Katie had to leave her son, Henry, with his Auntie Mary while she was working far away from home. Times were getting difficult in Russia, Katie and Henry, her sister Mary, their brother Ben and his family and two half-brothers decided to immigrate to Canada. However, Ben and Henry had Trachoma (an eye

sickness), so they stayed behind to have treatments in Moscow. In the fall of 1925, the group arrived by train to Sunny Slopes, Alberta, and joined the Riediger family on the Oxley Ranch, which they had purchased together, near Stavley. Katie had various housekeeping jobs working for ranchers west of Granum until she met Mrs. Frank who took her along to Vancouver to look after her children and household. When these children grew up and Katie's services were no longer needed, Katie decided to build a home of her own, in the Mennonite settlement of Yarrow, British Columbia.

In March 1943, Katie married a widower, Henry Klassen of Vauxhall. With the marriage came eight children, seven still living at home. In November of that year, Katie and Henry moved to Coaldale where they built a house on an acreage just east of Coaldale. Katie worked very hard for the Klassen family, teaching the girls to cook, sew and whatever else the girls needed to know.

One by one the children left and married and Katie and Henry bought a house near the old Mennonite Brethren Church (now the Gem of the West Museum). The Church was of the utmost importance to them. When the Mennonite Brethren's built a new church in Coaldale, they moved again to be near the church. Katie belonged to the Sewing Circle at

the church and helped make many quilts for the Mennonite Central Committee, which were sent overseas to needy countries. Katie also made quilts and afghans for the family. At one time in her life, Katie donated almost one quilt per week, and it is estimated that she would have made over 1000 in her lifetime. Henry took up painting and made it his hobby. Then Katie challenged Henry and soon they were painting side by side. One of Katie's paintings adorns her granddaughter's walls. It's a large one with poppies and other flowers. Henry's picture (the same one) hangs in his daughter Helen's house. I think all of the families have pictures of Henry's paintings.

Henry had a sick heart and it became necessary for them to sell their house and most of their belongings. In December 1978, Henry and Katie moved into the Sunny South Lodge. On January 3, 1979, Henry passed away from the massive heart attack. Katie kept on making quilts and afghans for the family. One spread that she made won first prize at the Settlers Day Exhibit. She also made many friends at the Sunny South Lodge.

There were many parties for her when she celebrated her 100th birthday. Edith Block, the matron of Sunny South Lodge, gave her a big party. She was also honored at the Coaldale Centennial Celebrations.

On March 13, 1995, Katie broke her hip (at 100 years of age) but through therapy and pure determination, she recovered, and was seen clipping along the halls of the Sunny South Lodge in her wheelchair and Adidas. After that, Katie was transferred to the Coaldale Health Care Centre Long Term Care where she resides at present.

Katie never once complained about pain and wouldn't use a walker or cane. She learned to walk holding on to the railing and other furniture. The hardest for her was to be strapped into the chair before she was able to walk on her own.

Katie has always been a giving person and even now, she will share whatever goodies are brought to her. She is the oldest citizen in Coaldale. When we celebrated her birthday at our house last year, she sang right along with the singers. At 105, she still sings "Got ist de Leibe" (God is Love).

Henry and I are happy that mom is in Coaldale and not miles away. We go to see her whenever we can, even though she can't tell stories like she used to and doesn't remember as well as she used to. She uses the wheelchair more often now but is in fair health, and still makes her own bed. On August 31st, she will celebrate yet another birthday with her son, eight stepchildren, five grandchildren, 12 step-grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. Katie is a loving, giving, and thoughtful lady who devoted her life to family, friends and God.



Victoria Rita Lashmar

born June 24, 1897

... we had “spelling bees”

once a month, which was fun, trying to

be the last one down.

I, Victoria Rita Lashmar (Inge) was born in Shortlands, Kent, England on June 24, 1897 to Thomas and Caroline Inge. My father was a carpenter by trade, son of a lumberyard owner. In 1905, my father, who suffered from asthma, was advised to seek a drier climate. That year, he went to Toronto to build a house. The following year, in 1906, I came to Toronto with my mother, my sister Dorothy and my brother Jim to live at #482 Clarence Avenue. My brother Norman was born after we came to Canada and later my mother adopted a daughter Betty.

In 1911, we moved to Calgary by CPR train where we stayed at a good temperance hotel west of 4th Street while my father built our new home northwest of Calgary. I went to Balmoral School where we had “spelling bees” once a month, which was fun, trying to be the last one down.

During the war years (1914-1918), I worked first at a millinery store where I learned how to make wire shapes for hats and make linings. I also worked at the new Hudson's Bay store and at Pearson's bookstore. In 1925, I went to California to visit a friend and while there worked for a family looking after the house and children. After my father died in 1927, I took typing and shorthand at Garbut's Business College, then found a job at Louis Petre's Wholesale Grocery where I typed up orders.

During my teens and later, I belonged to the Anoka Rebecca Lodge where I got to play the piano. I remember a special trip in 1922 to see the Rockies with my Aunt Ciss. We went on a trail ride to Emerald Lake and over the Burgess Pass. Oh what a wonderful trip it was! In 1923, I met an English fellow named Chris Lashmar, my hero, who had been in the British army during the 1914 war. We were married on July 16, 1934 at St. Michael's and All Angel's Anglican Church in Calgary. Chris had already bought a half-section of land with a two-story

house and barn ten miles northwest of Cremona on Fallen Timber Creek. We went to our new home in a truck called “the mail truck” which was loaded with our tables, chairs and everything imaginable with just enough room for the driver, Chris and me. I said to myself, “This looks like fun.” Our house had a cast iron stove in the living room and a cook stove in the kitchen and there was plenty of dry wood to be had in the bush. I learned to make bread with a neighbor’s help and continued to bake bread in a coal stove until I was 99.

Between 1935 and 1938 we had three sons, first Tom, then a baby who died shortly after birth, and finally Dave. Tom still lives on a farm three miles from our farm at Cremona. We got our mail twice a week at the Big Prairie post office. It was five miles away as the crow flies. My husband had a Model T before we were married but it wasn’t much good on the farm because there were no roads, just trails. He traded it for a saddle and bought a wild horse from a government auction sale for \$2. That horse became good transportation to go to the post office and the grocery store. I remember hitching up the horses to the democrat to pick up Chris at Water Valley. I took blankets to make it comfortable for our two sons Tom and Dave. I did real well until it started to rain buckets and we had to stop at a farm to get dried off. Chris was glad to see us. Guess he

wondered if we would make it. The democrat made it easier to travel to the nearby towns, Cremona, Carstairs and Didsbury.

In 1958, we built a new house with running water, electricity and a coal furnace. Shortly after, Chris became ill and he died in 1966. I sure missed him for he was a good fellow. After my husband died, my neighbors were wonderful to me. We had a bridge club for more than 20 years.

I stayed on the farm until 1997 when I had a fall, which injured my leg. I now live with my youngest son Dave, and his wife Sharon, on a farm northeast of Ryley. I have six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



A black and white portrait of an elderly woman, Alexandra Lewkowicz, with short, curly white hair and glasses. She is wearing a light-colored jacket over a dark top with a bow. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with foliage.

Alexandra Lewkowicz

born March 7, 1900

*Alexandra came as a true pioneer,
opening the land at Sylvester.*

Alexandra Lewkowicz was born March 7, 1900 in Dombrowica, Province of Mala, Poland. As a young girl, the First World War was very real to Alexandra and her family with a German bomb narrowly missing their home and memories of hiding in the forest for safety. There was no food in the stores so Alexandra went begging for food from farm to farm. Later, the government confiscated the grain for the soldiers, locking the farmers' grain bins. Given the food shortage, the family moved away by train.

Married in 1923, with one child having died from pneumonia, Alexandra, her husband, Stephen, and son boarded a boat for Canada in 1929. The bottom deck of the ship was crowded with people, many sick from the poor food and living conditions provided. The family boarded a train for Edmonton where they homesteaded at Tomahawk for only a few months (poor soil), then relocated to a homestead in Sylvester, in the Peace River Country.

Alexandra came as a true pioneer, opening the land at Sylvester. She used an axe to cut down the trees with her husband using the horse to pull out the stumps. However, as times continued to be difficult, she stayed at their homestead clearing land while her husband went looking for work as a farm laborer. Food consisted of dumplings (made of flour and lard) along with any rabbits her son could snare. In 1930/31, Alexandra's husband

obtained \$5.00 from a government relief program and worked clearing road allowances to pay back the \$5.00. However, one of their neighbors reported that, as not yet citizens, Alexandra's family was not qualified to receive the government assistance. The family received notice that they were to be deported to Poland. Only with assistance from the Polish ambassador to Canada were they able to remain in Canada.

In 1945, Alexandra's family of four children and her husband, moved from Sylvester to a farm they purchased outside of Beaverlodge to enable their two younger daughters to attend high school. The oldest son helped at home on the farm. In 1960, Alexandra and Stephen retired from the farm and moved into Beaverlodge. This was very difficult for Alexandra, as she loved farm life and her favorite horse, Jim. Five years later they moved to Grande Prairie.

In 1967, Alexandra's husband, Stephen, died. She continued living in the same house alone until she was 96 years old—still shopping, mowing the lawn, planting and tending the garden and flowerbeds. Alexandra then went to live with her granddaughter and family on an acreage outside of Grande Prairie. In 1998, she relocated to the Heritage Lodge where she resides. Alexandra's mind and spirit to live remain strong. She also has eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

A black and white portrait of an elderly woman, Esther Lind, with short, light-colored hair and glasses. She is wearing a dark, patterned jacket and is smiling slightly. The background is dark and out of focus.

Esther Lind

born October 24, 1899

*She received several awards
acknowledging her contributions.*

In 1905, Carl and Maria Malmberg along with their four children Hilda, Esther, Carl Jr., and Mary, decided to emigrate from Sweden to the United States to join Carl's brothers at Broadland, South Dakota. The family worked on their relatives' farms until 1908 when they heard that homestead land was available in Canada. The reports of excellent land and high wheat yields were enough to entice Carl and his brother Pete to travel to Lethbridge to see for themselves. Carl filed for homestead land five miles northwest of Retlaw, buying a quarter section for \$10.00, for himself and his brothers. There were more hard times than easy over the following few years. Esther helped out as much as she could from the young age of nine.

The great flu epidemic hit the world in the fall of 1918 and then again in 1919. The Malmberg family helped to nurse their neighbors during the crisis. Esther nursed several families but many died.

Esther married Emil Johnson on July 3, 1921 and they farmed on the Retlaw farm. In 1922, cutworms destroyed their crops, which convinced them to seek employment in Campbell's Mill at Redmond, Washington. Emil's work at the mill was cold and wet and he became ill with tuberculosis, which took his life on May 17, 1923. Esther then returned to Canada.

Esther was an excellent cook, a skill she developed cooking for threshing crews on the homestead and later with Canada Land and the PFRA. On July 30, 1929, she married John (Jack) Lind. The Canada Land and Irrigation Company and PFRA employed Jack as a construction foreman for 24 years. He passed away in 1956.

Religion was always the guiding force in the Malmberg family and particularly to Esther throughout her life. She witnessed the building of the Retlaw Church and was very interested in its restoration. In recent years, her favorite outing was to go to the church and reminisce about the early days of the Retlaw community. A long-standing member of the Evangelical Free Church, she was an enthusiastic supporter and founding member of the Southern Alberta Bible Camp.

A loyal supporter of the Red Cross, she gave blood at every opportunity; in fact they finally refused to take her blood due to her advanced age. She received several awards acknowledging her contributions.

Esther has six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She celebrated her 100th birthday on October 24th, 1999.



Irene Machan

born May 18, 1899

*She loved to walk through her district
and visit with her neighbors with her
cheery “Avon Calling” job.*

Irene Machan (nee McDonald) was born in Lucknow, Ontario on May 18, 1899 to John and Mary McDonald. Born at home, she was the sixth of 10 children. She came as far west as Reston, Manitoba with her family when she was six years old at which time they bought the family farm three miles from Tilston, Manitoba. Irene has many fond memories of a very happy childhood, and considers herself most fortunate to have had such good parents and a large, happy, fun-filled family to grow up in.

Education was of paramount importance in her family and all 10 children were fully educated. Irene went on to Normal

school and became a schoolteacher, teaching in a one-room school in Radville, Saskatchewan. It was while she was there that she met her future husband, William (Bill) Machan. They married in 1920 and moved to Edmonton, Alberta in 1925 with their two sons, Earl and Murray. Bill was a fireman, and later an engineer with the CN Railroad, and Irene was very active in the Lady Firemen Lodge. They lived in the Calder area for many years, where both Bill and Irene devoted much time to their church and community. They moved to the Westmount district of Edmonton, and in 1934 their daughter Patt was born.

Irene remained in the west end of Edmonton even after the death of her husband in 1964. She loved to walk through her district and visit with her neighbors with her cheery “Avon Calling” job. Irene traveled extensively, lawn bowled and alley bowled, loved to play cards (particularly bridge), and while a resident of St. Andrews Senior Centre was a very active member of the Honky Tonk Gals Band until the age of 92. With the onset of osteoporosis and arthritis at the age of 95, Irene moved to her present residence in the Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre where, thanks to the wonderful care she receives there, she still enjoys remarkably good health. She has six grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Michael Matejka

born September 11, 1897



*We had heard of the sugar beet country,
so we ended up in Raymond, Alberta, ...*

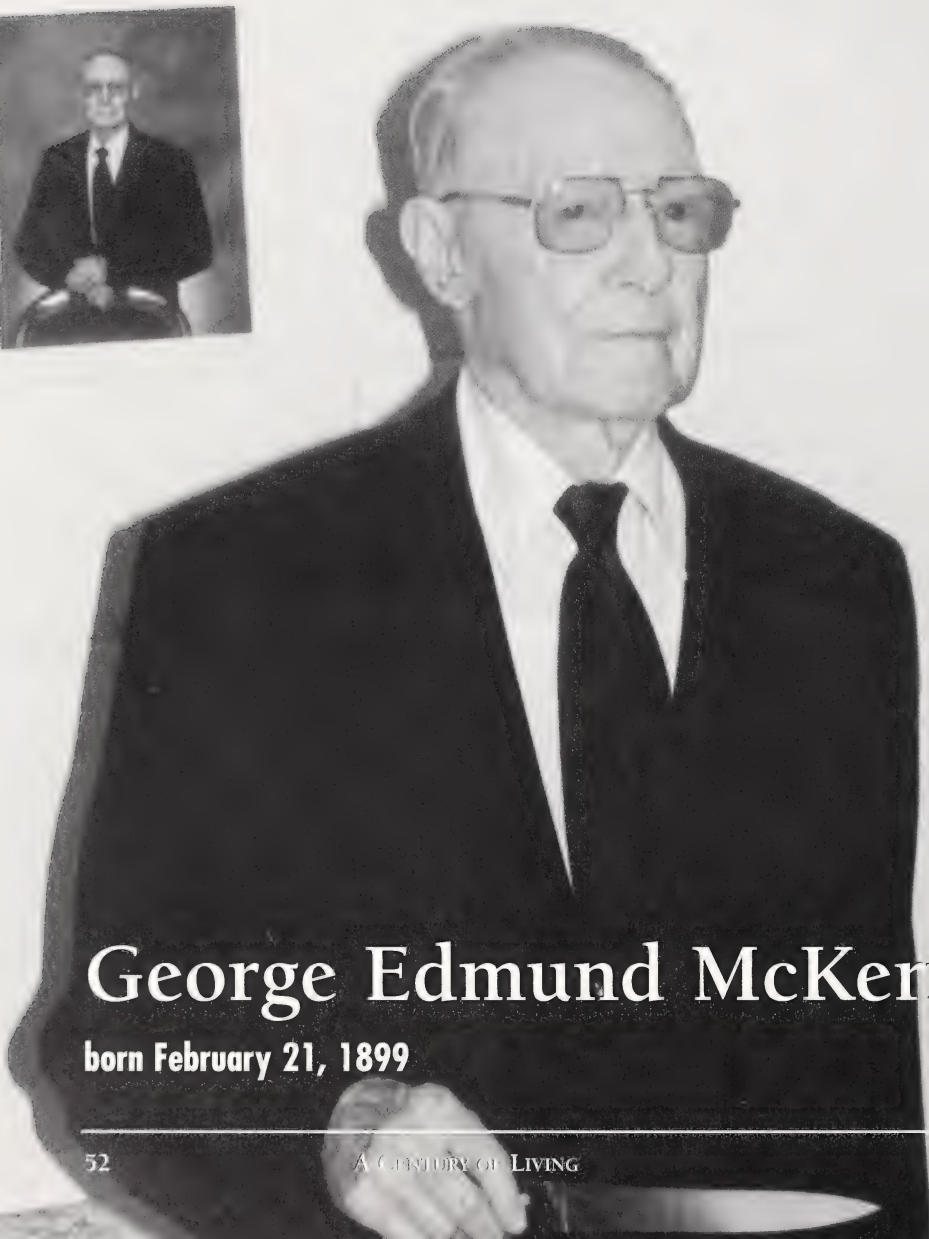
I was born on September 11, 1897 in Csomad, Hungary. In July of 1925, I, my wife Suzann, and our small daughter left Hungary and immigrated to Canada. We arrived in Halifax in 1925 and continued on to Winnipeg, where we were to go to a homestead in northern Manitoba, but we changed our minds and took the train west instead. We ended up in Kipling, Saskatchewan, where we were fortunate enough to get work harvesting and logging in the winter.

In the spring of 1926, we decided to go further west. We had heard of the sugar beet country, so we ended up in Raymond, Alberta, the heart of sugar beet raising. We got work in Welling at a Mr. A. Foote's farm and we stayed there for three years. We then decided to go further west, and ended up in Kelowna, British Columbia, and the heart of fruit land. We stayed in beautiful Kelowna for three years, then came back to the sugar beet country of Raymond. We felt more at home in Raymond as there were some of our countrymen working in the sugar beets. After a couple of years working as laborers, we decided to purchase some land. We farmed for 31 years at the same location,

raising sugar beets and wheat, and feeding cattle in the winter. Needless to say, the work took its toll on us, so we decided to call it a day. Our experience of farming and raising pigs and cattle could fill a couple of volumes.

In 1961, we moved to Lethbridge, Alberta to retire, but of course being a couple of land lovers, we could not sit in our front room and watch the world go by. We decided to go on a smaller scale and raise a garden, vegetables and flowers, which we did for the next 30 odd years. One day our health said it was time to quit. My wife, Suzann, ended up in a nursing home and I went to a seniors lodge. In 1997, I celebrated my 100th birthday. My wife, two daughters, grandchildren, and friends (and of course my new family, all the seniors at the lodge) were all with me - it was a memorable occasion.

In May of 1998, Suzann and I celebrated our 80th wedding anniversary. My beloved Suzann died on October 7, 1998. Together, we were the proud parents of two daughters; and there are now 11 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.



George Edmund McKerihan

born February 21, 1899

*... a distinct call from God to
minister to needy children ...*

George McKerihan was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania on February 21, 1899. In 1921, his father's failing health led the family to move to Alberta, Canada for the clean prairie air. George, being strongly committed to his family, accompanied his parents and shouldered the responsibility of breaking and farming the land they purchased near Lloydminster. It was here that George met a young schoolteacher, May Kent, and after a long courtship they were married in 1931. Over the ensuing years, their family grew to include five children.

The fall of 1945 brought a radical change when George and May felt a distinct call from God to minister to needy children under Mission to Orphans. Thus, at age 46, George moved his family to Cuba, learned a new language, and assumed responsibility for the

general operation of an orphanage which grew to about 100 children. Two of the agricultural accomplishments he is most proud of were the introduction of the concept of silage, and the cross breeding of Guernsey cattle with the local herds - which thereby increased milk production while preserving the tick-resistant qualities of the native breed.

George spent nine years in Cuba before transferring to Haiti, where he worked for another 17 years, adapting again to a different language and culture. In Haiti, he lived through the devastation of Hurricane Cleo and assisted in the development of a more favorable foster home program for orphans.

After retiring in 1971, George settled in the Okanagan for 20 years. But after May's death, George, at the age of 92, returned to Alberta to be closer to his family. He now resides at the Pioneer Lodge in Lloydminster. George still remains quite active, possesses a keen mind and loves to sing. In fact, he continues to lead the hymn-sing every Sunday evening. And in short, George still enjoys life. His five children gave him 12 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Catherine Michalow

born November 24, 1899

*I did not have the opportunity
of going to school, but was kept home to
do the farm work and to help with the
cattle herding.*

I was born on November 24, 1899 in Ruda Krakowci, in the Kingdom of Galicia of the Austrian Empire. In 1904, at the age of five, I came to Canada with my parents and four sisters. I was the second youngest in my family, and grew up on a farm in Flat Lake, Alberta. I did not have the opportunity of going to school, but was kept home to do the farm work and to help with the cattle herding. I helped my father clear the land, pick rocks and farm. In the wintertime I trapped muskrats, and my parents sold the furs to support the family.

I was married to John Michalow on February 4, 1917 in St. Paul, Alberta. We had nine children, but two died at a very early age. I now have 21 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. We took up residence on a homestead at Bordenave, Alberta. John and I brushed and worked the land to grow a crop, and we planted a garden. John dug clay off of our land and built a kiln out of bricks; then we made the bricks and sold them in the community and outlying area. I grew large gardens and sold vegetables to people in an extensive area around us. I also loved flowers and grew a massive garden of them. My favorite flowers were Dahlias; I had every colour there was to be had. I grew large gardens of strawberries and raspberries and sold the berries. We used to go blueberry picking with the kids and sold these berries also. In this way, we supported ourselves and had some money for the kids' clothing and schooling.

I attended quilting bees every week with the ladies in the community. We gave some of the quilts to the Red Cross. We also knitted mitts, scarves, and gloves and donated these to the Red Cross. My pastime in the winter was to pluck goose feathers and make duvets. I also knitted socks, mitts, gloves and scarves for my family. I enjoyed visiting friends every Sunday and having them over to our house to play cards. My favorite games were "Holly" and "Rummy".

My favorite recipe was a loaf called a “Perohy” which was made from bread dough and had a filling of buckwheat mixed with mashed potatoes. My family used to make a big meal of this. It was especially good when it was just taken out of the oven and served with sour cream and butter.

My husband passed away in 1955. I then moved off the farm to live with my youngest daughter, and help her with babysitting. After my oldest son’s wife passed away, I lived at his place and helped him with his two children.



Grace Moore

born February 8, 1900

Once, I even got a milk cow as wages!

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on February 8, 1900. On August 26, 1924, I moved to Canada, into a little area of Alberta called Hillcrest. I then met my husband, Augusta Moore (Slim), and we were married in 1929 in Kerr, Alberta. He was a horse wrangler, and I cooked for the crew. In 1935, we moved to Cochrane, Alberta, where my daughter was born in a little log cabin. We acquired a homestead northwest of Cochrane up on Grand

Valley Road. We cleared the homestead land by hand and by horse, and at one time we raised some mink. We had to keep our meat in a deep well to keep it from spoiling. We then moved to Turner Valley, where Slim worked on the oilrigs (it seems we had done a lot of moving). Lots of hard work and long hours! Once, I even got a milk cow as wages!

After 37 years of marriage, my husband Slim passed away in 1966. I then moved to Sturgeon Heights in 1970 with my daughter and son-in-law, who had also acquired homestead land. I now have two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. In June of 1996 I moved to Red Willow Lodge in Valleyview, Alberta, where I lived for three years. I now reside in the Valleyview Long Term Care facility, and have been there since April of 1999.



Anna Oszust

born June 23, 1899

She still takes part in all the recreational activities and enjoys the attention given by staff.

Anna Zapotichny was born June 23, 1899 in the village of Psary, Ukraine. She married John Oszust on March 6, 1921. In 1928, John left the Ukraine for Canada in the hopes of earning money to be able to buy more land. Once in Canada, he decided that this was a land of opportunity and sent for Anna and their two sons, Walter and Michael. Anna joined her husband in 1931, and they purchased a homestead near Glendon, Alberta. They worked hard and prospered. They had three more children: Jerry, Richard and Anne.

Anna and John took an active part in their church and community. When Mike and Walter were able to take over the family farms, John and Anna moved to Vegreville. Here too they were involved in their church community.

In their later years, John and Anna decided to move to Edmonton. After 61 years of marriage to Anna, John died in 1982. Anna then continued living in her own home and she looked after her ailing son Walter, who died in 1994. At the age of 97, Anna entered St. Michael's Nursing Home. She still takes part in all the recreational activities and enjoys the attention given by staff.

On June 19, 1999, 80 of Anna's friends and family gathered to celebrate her 100th birthday. On behalf of the family, Anna's grandchild Terry thanked and praised "Baba" for her exemplary life: for her love of God, her family and her Ukrainian heritage, and especially for having the courage to come to Canada (the most wonderful country in the world) so that her family could reap the benefits of a better life. Anna received many congratulatory messages at that time, but her most cherished one was an autographed picture from Wayne Gretzky, since she was a faithful fan of Gretzky throughout his career.

Anna is the proud mother of six, grandmother of 17, and great grandmother of 20. She is a person who loves life and embodies the true spirit of a Canadian pioneer. We all love her dearly.

Hans Paulson

born June 26, 1898

*Perhaps chief among his activities was
canvassing for funds to build the Seniors'*

Drop-in Centre in Ponoka.

Hans Paulson was born on June 26, 1898 in Kvikne, Norway, the youngest in a family of eight. In 1906, the family left Norway in the company of 25 people—mostly family and family connections seeking better opportunities in America. The family arrived in Alberta on May 17, 1906, where they first lived in a rented house near Gwynne while Hans' father went looking for a farm. He bought a farm northwest of Ponoka, and from there, Hans had to travel four miles to get to school. Hans attended Olds School of Agriculture (later Olds College), and graduated in 1928.

Hans helped his father on the farm, which was gradually enlarged as adjoining land became available. This was a mixed farming area, part of which was for beef cattle. Hans favored the Aberdeen Angus breed. Early in life Hans suffered hearing impairment from operating noisy tractors. He enjoyed observing wildlife, and he learned to love the deer and birds.

Hans was community-minded and was involved in Chatauqua and Junior United Farmers, and later in Unifarm and other farm events. Cooperative organizations took up his attention and time. Perhaps chief among his activities was canvassing for funds to build the Seniors' Drop-in Centre in Ponoka. He enjoyed visiting and was very hospitable. Hans is a life-

long member of the Lutheran Church and always drove his children to Sunday school in Ponoka. He also encouraged the children in their 4-H endeavors.

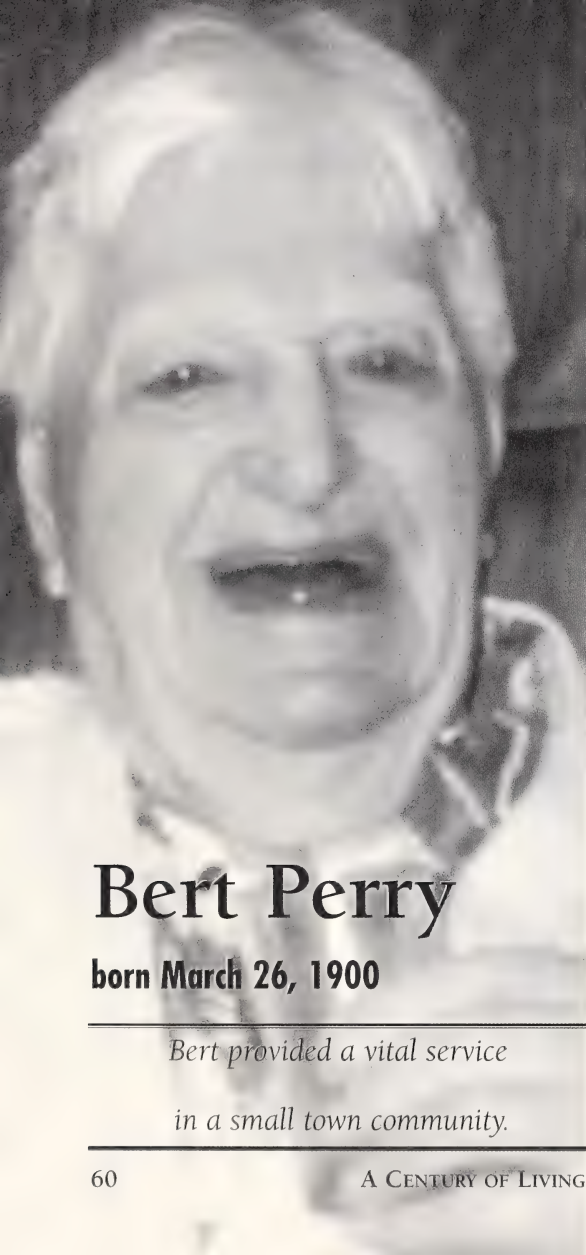
His favorite hobby was growing things. Later in life he volunteered friendly visiting. Hans enjoyed all food, and was easy to cook for. He enjoyed music and dancing, and would travel long distances to attend a dance. Traveling was a part of his life too; he has gone to family reunions in South Dakota and Iowa and has taken a cruise to Alaska.

In 1941, Hans married Bertha Paulson who had come from the United States. They marked their 50th wedding anniversary in

1991, and have now been married for 58 years. In 1998, Hans' family hosted an open house for his 100th birthday and a small gathering for his 101st birthday a year later. Hans and Bertha have four children: Fern, Harold, Glen and John. They also have seven grandchildren.

In 1991, Hans sold his farm to son John and his wife Camille. When Alzheimer's disease attacked him, Hans entered the long-term care of the Ponoka General Hospital and Care Centre. He was at first ambulant but is now in a wheelchair. He enjoys reading names and messages from a white board, as he cannot hear anymore.





Bert Perry

born March 26, 1900

Bert provided a vital service

in a small town community.

Bert Perry was born on March 26, 1900 in Eamden, Ontario. He arrived in Alberta in 1910. Bert was married for 52 years and is the proud father of two, grandfather of six, great grandfather of eight, and great-great grandfather of one. Bert owned a general store in Talbot from 1936-1944. He then moved to Scandia, Alberta, where he ran a general store from 1944-1972. Bert provided a vital service in a small town community.

Bert's hobbies included woodworking, carpentry, baseball, hockey and curling. He was a lifetime member of the Vauxhall Curling Club and the United Church. Bert was a volunteer at the Historical Museum in Scandia. He also worked at the curling rink and the community hall.

Bert is good-natured and has a healthy sense of humor. He now resides at the Empress Health Center in Empress, Alberta. Bert takes part in a variety of recreational programs such as bingo, music, pet therapy, social programs and special events. His favorite activity, however, is mini golf. Bert has been known to remark on more than one occasion, "You know I'm almost 100 years old!" He's still going strong, and that in itself is a most amazing accomplishment.



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Nena M. Reed

born December 13, 1900

*... the family moved to Lacombe,
Alberta, where they had to stay at
Immigration Hall until the three
carloads of settlers' effects arrived.*

This story is a summary of a newspaper article about Nena, written in 1987, an account of Nena's early life that she herself wrote in the 1980s, and a recent update by Nena's son-in-law, J. D. Jantzig.

Nena Reed was born on December 13, 1900 in Ladysmith, Quebec to parents Duncan Ross and Henrietta Hodgins; she was the youngest of nine children. Three months later, in 1901, the family moved to Lacombe, Alberta, where they had to stay at Immigration Hall until the three carloads of settlers' effects arrived.

Immigration Hall was whipped together with freshly sawed lumber, and had no partitions. There were many other migrants staying there as well. Nena's mother used her blankets for walls. She put the feather ticks on the floor and laid out sheets and blankets for the family to sleep on. Baby Nena slept beside her mother. There was no problem feeding her, since she was a nursed baby. The carloads of settlers' effects (once they arrived) were piled around them. In the morning, the beds were all folded neatly and covered by a gray blanket. Quilts were hung from the rafters for partitions, and Nena's cradle was kept handy so that the other children could rock the cradle when she cried. Next to Nena's family was the Hudkins family, whose homestead was about 10 miles further east (at Clive). Buffalo Lake Trail was the main thoroughfare. Eventually, this trail went as far as Stettler, Castor, and Consort by 1910. Nena's mother always had milk, eggs, potatoes, and so on to sell to the settlers. (Back in Quebec, the family had also kept a store.)

Central School, three miles east of Lacombe, was under construction and the young fellows all got work as carpenters. Once, one of the boys doing the carpentry fell off the roof and became crippled for the rest of his life. As soon as the schoolhouse was built, school started up, and Nena's mother curtained off a corner of their living room to house the teacher. One of the teachers was James A. McKinnon, who later became a Cabinet Minister in Ottawa.

Another one of the teachers was Lillian B. Moore. Lillian had a bicycle. She put a cushion behind the seat, and everywhere that she went, Nena went too. Lillian married a neighbor, William Newton, and they lived at Lacombe. Their baby Willie died on his first birthday. Lillian had two more children and lived for years.

Nena remembers the tragic night of Willie's funeral, when there was a big electric storm, and the Roberts' barn was struck by lightning. The barn burned down and the horses were killed. Tom Roberts died after eight agonizing months. Nena says that it nearly broke her heart.

That same fall, Dr. Haynes said that Nena's father had cancer and sent him off to Mayo Brothers, in Rochester, Minnesota. They did an operation but gave him no grounds for hope. Six weeks later, he was dead. Two weeks before he died, however, he sold the farm and bought a house for the family in Lacombe. (That house had in it the piano that Clark and Lori have.)

Nena's family later moved to Edmonton. Nena went to school at Victoria High for grade 11, and attended Robertson Church S.S., where she made many friends. Nena's family then moved to the district of Strathcona on 56 Avenue, where Nena went to Scona High for grade 12. Nena remembers how

she used to save money for a tram fair by walking to school. During her school years, Nena served as captain of the girls' hockey team. She was president of the Red Cross and sewed clothes for the soldiers in the First World War. During this time, Nena was also asked to join the first Alberta group of the non-denominational Canadian Girls in Training, quite an honor. During Nena's grade 12 year, her brother Allen went to fight in the trenches in France, and he later died in the battle of Vimy Ridge.

After high school, Nena went on to take a four-month teacher's course at Normal School in Calgary (although most people from Edmonton attended Normal School in Camrose). While in Calgary, Nena boarded at the YWCA. There was a swimming pool there and she got to swim to her heart's content for free. It was at this time that a terrible epidemic of Spanish Influenza swept the world. So much time was lost that Nena had to go back home for a month. Then she had to find another school.

Nena taught school for three years in Lacombe and Stettler before getting married. She recalls how she got her first teaching job. During the Christmas holidays, she was travelling in the streetcar beside a girl, Alice Joice. They began talking, and Nena learned that Alice was just leaving a teaching position at Loyalty School. Alice recommended that Nena

apply for the position. Nena applied, as Alice had recommended, and she got the job. Nena and her sister Jennie got teaching jobs in two neighboring districts for a time. Sometimes, Nena would rent a white pony and go to stay with Jennie on the weekends.

Nena went on to marry a banker from Lacombe, Mr. A. E. Eastes, and they eventually settled in Ponoka, where Nena's husband started Ponoka's first real estate and insurance company, now known as Jones Brothers. Nena quit working, as was customary at the time for women to do when they got married, and raised three daughters. She later returned to teaching at Ponoka's St. Augustine School for more than four years and served for years as a substitute teacher in town schools. She also taught Sunday School for 58 years, so she knows most of the town as former students.

Nena is a lifelong Christian and an advocate of temperance. She has been honored with life memberships in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the United Church Women and the British and Foreign Bible Society. She becomes serious when she talks about a life-long fight against the spread of alcohol. "I was brought up against the booze," she says. "It's discouraging to see the terrible effects of the public acceptance of alcohol over the years."

Nena was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 66 years, at which she served as Worthy Matron. After 25 years of organizing the Ponoka blood donor clinics, she received a badge of service award in 1974. She also spent years as director of United Church camps first at Gull, then at Sylvan Lake, where many will remember her technique for getting noisy cabins to go to sleep. "I got them all up and took them for a walk, sending them back to the cabin separately so they had to walk alone through the dark. I never had to do it more than once," she recalls, with a twinkle in her sharp blue eyes.

Nena maintains a cheerful outlook on life, in general. She likes to keep herself busy and active. "The secret is to stay active and never say die," Nena says of her lifestyle. "Those who don't, suffer." To prove her point, she recalls how she let herself be persuaded to start ice-skating again. "The kids got me out skating on the lake a few years ago and were holding me up on either side," she says. "I told them: Me, fall? Don't be silly!" During her retirement years, Nena has been in the habit of walking over a kilometre a day, rain or shine, all the while keeping a sharp eye out for a noxious weed which she eradicates from her customary route—this despite her heart condition.

Looking back over all the events of her life, Nena says that she's most proud of two: her trophy for Golden Age Swimmer of the Year from the Ponoka Pool Sharks (which she won so often she retired it), and the naming of a United Church women's group after her. "That was the most wonderful thing I've ever experienced, when they named the unit after me," she says.

While Nena no longer paints, her work is on display at the Glenbow Museum. Since moving to Northcott in March of 1991, Nena has continued her positive, friendly approach by helping other residents adjust to their new surroundings. Now, as Northcott's oldest resident (and even in recent past), Nena participates joyously in entertainment and church services at the lodge. She loves her children, grandchildren, and friends who come to visit and her caregivers who work in the lodge.

Nena was married to her first husband, A. E. Eastes, for 53 years and to her second husband, Clinton Reed, for 15 years. She is the proud mother of three daughters, grandmother of seven, and great grandmother of 15.





Michal Rubik

born November 8, 1897

*On August 3, 1929, after many tearful
good-byes, Michal, his wife Nadia and
young daughter Mary (three months old)
left by train to the Port of Danzig.*

Michal Rubik was born on November 8, 1897 in Bezek (Chelm), Poland. The family consisted of four boys and two girls. He is the only surviving member left of the family. During the First World War in 1914, at the age of 17, Michal was taken into the Polish Army to train soldiers. He was very grateful he didn't have to go to the "front" in battle. During the Revolution, the family was forced to move to Russia. There he worked as a bricklayer.

In 1929, Michal was seriously considering taking the long journey from his homeland and moving to the "Promised Land" of Canada. On August 3, 1929, after many tearful good-byes, Michal, his wife Nadia and young daughter Mary (three months old) left by train to the Port of Danzig. There they boarded the S.S. United States ship and set sail across the Atlantic Ocean. Michal enjoyed the trip and arrived in Halifax on August 16, 1929. They then boarded the C.N.R. train and proceeded to Winnipeg, arriving August 20, 1929. On August 27 of that year, they arrived in Edmonton. After meeting an old friend, who had come to Canada a few years earlier, Michal set out to find some land through Immigration Hall. Most of the land around the Edmonton area was already taken by then, so he had to travel by train north to the Meanook area. He was fortunate to acquire a quarter section of land (160 acres) in the Coolidge district (SW / 27-64-24-W4) which cost him \$10.00. Finally his dream had come true: 160 acres of "bush"! Michal was very lucky to meet some more of his neighbors from Poland who had already settled in the area. Together, with their help, he was able to hew the logs and had a house built before the winter set in. In the next few years Michal acquired some cows, chickens, and a team of horses and had brushed some land by hand.

They struggled through many hardships, but there was always food to eat, which consisted of wild berries, mushrooms, rabbits, wild chickens, fish, deer and moose. Bread was baked by hand; a barrel of sauerkraut was made every fall. A garden was always planted so there would be vegetables to store away in the “root cellar” for the winter months.

Michal helped to build the first roads in the area and also the first school house (which still stands today). He also served as school trustee. Every year, Michal would go out looking for any jobs that he could get - brushing, stooking, or threshing; he went as far south as Legal, Alberta. Sometimes he traveled on top of the boxcars on the train (as he had no money to buy a ticket) or else he walked. In later years, Michal did mixed farming, raising cattle, hogs, grain, chickens, ducks, geese and bees. He farmed with horses until 1953 when he bought his first Oliver tractor. Farming with the modern machinery made life much easier for him. Michal retired from farming in 1962 and together with his wife purchased a house in Athabasca, Alberta.



Unfortunately they didn't have much time together to enjoy their retirement as his wife passed away on December 31, 1962. Michal was married to Nadia for 37 years and is the proud father of seven, grandfather of 20, great grandfather of 38, and great-great grandfather of five. He continued to live in his home until January 1994. During his retirement, Michal had numerous hobbies, which consisted of gardening, hunting and fishing, repairing watches, clocks and TV's, and playing his mouth organ. He also learned to be a good cook. He was considered to have the best garden in the town of Athabasca, and was very proud when people would stop by to see his garden and flowers.

Michal then moved into the Extencicare Unit in Athabasca where he presently resides and is very thankful for the loving care and service he receives there. His memory and eyesight are still very good, but he is now confined to a wheelchair. Some of Michal's fondest memories are of family gatherings. He looks forward to visiting with us, his family, and we always have a great time!

Dorothy M. Stephenson

born January 15, 1900

“The window was wide open, the place was all torn up and terribly dirty, but nothing much was stolen.”

Dorothy Diller was born on January 15, 1900 at a hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Her parents, Joseph William Diller and Elizabeth May Thompson, lived at Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Diller brought the family to Edmonton in 1914, where he opened Edmonton's first bookstore on Jasper Avenue.

For summer employment in 1918, Dorothy took a teaching position at Stanislawow School, 13 miles from Vegreville. As an 18-year-old, who had not handled horses or children before, it must have proved very challenging. The following are some excerpts from a letter from Dorothy to her mother dated

Wednesday, May 15, 1918. She apparently had a friend staying with her.

“...We found that the cottage had been broken into through a window, and nothing had been fixed up. The window was wide open, the place was all torn up and terribly dirty, but nothing much was stolen. We have been short of water because the pump was broken. One of the trustees fixed it yesterday, took all day, but the water is still muddy. I have had a great time trying to get to my school. It is farther away than we thought. We arranged for a horse which we could have on trial for one week. Guaranteed to be as gentle as a dove. Mary is her name, but it just doesn't suit her. She would make a fine hatrack; that is her bones would. She is not a saddle horse, but a harness and a democrat were thrown in. They are both gems of antiquity. We got one of Mrs. W's. little boys to hitch up the steed, and I tried to start off. Couldn't do a thing with her. She circled round and round, nearly broke the buggy and acted simply wild. Couldn't get her on the road at all. I had about decided that it was up to me to walk because the men are all so busy seeding they don't like to take an hour off. Just then, the horse's owner appeared, the one that came to fix the pump, and he got her started all right and I got to school at 11:30 without any further mishap. Most of the kids had gone home by that time, only three left. My school is fixed quite nice for a country school, I

think, although it is rather dirty. Has a good library. There are 30 in the school, but only six have appeared so far. Probably they will come in gradually.”

Dorothy graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.A. in 1923 and an M.A. in Economics in 1924. She then went to High River and taught for six years. Dorothy’s mother was a good friend of Nellie McClung, and there is a letter from Nellie saying that she recommended Dorothy for a job at the Garneau High School (84 Avenue and 112 Street—it has since been torn down) in Edmonton. Dorothy got the job and taught French and English there until her retirement in 1948.

Dorothy married Stanley Stephenson in 1949. They resided at 11031-84th Avenue in Edmonton. Stanley died on October 21, 1974. Dorothy was very independent and continued to live in her house until the age of 96 when she went to the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton.



Anton Straub

born January 13, 1900

*He then worked his way west on the
railroad and arrived in the Edmonton
area in March of 1928.*

Anton Straub, my father, was born on January 13, 1900 in Reta, Poland, and he came to Canada in April of 1926. His brother John had settled in Manitoba and Dad worked either on John’s farm or on neighboring farms. He spent one winter logging in Ontario, but found the climate too damp for his liking. He then worked his way west on the railroad and arrived in the Edmonton area in March of 1928. From Edmonton, with two friends, Dad toured the north country from Ft. St. John, Dawson Creek, Peace River, Grande Prairie and High Prairie. He chose to take a homestead in the High Prairie area.

Dad met my mother just before he went looking for land. When he returned to Edmonton, they decided to get married on September 29, 1929. They moved to the homestead in Gilwood in the spring of 1930 and my brother Albert was born on October 21, 1930. Mom often mentioned when she spoke of this time, that if she wanted to see the sky, she would have to look straight up as the trees were so thick and tall. She was very happy when they managed to clear a few acres and get a crop and garden planted. My brother Joe was born on March 17, 1932. Mom and Dad spent the next two years clearing land and getting established. In 1934, Dad got the opportunity to rent land from Mr. Gable just north of High Prairie, and they lived there for the next few years.

In 1941, my parents moved back to the homestead in Gilwood. That fall I was born. Times were hard, and Dad took whatever work was available in order to make a living. He cut firewood in the winter and worked on neighboring farms in the summer. With the help of Mom and the boys, he managed to keep our farm going as well. Also during this time Dad got sick, and it took him about two years to regain his health.

In the fall of 1947, our family moved to the acreage just west of High Prairie which is now owned by Buchanan Lumber. In the spring

of 1985, Mom was diagnosed with cancer and passed away two years later. My brother Albert passed away very suddenly, in June of 1996, also of cancer. His wife Sophia, three sons and two grandchildren survive Albert. Wilf and I have four children, and three grandchildren.

Dad lived comfortably on the acreage, where Joe kept an eye on him until his health took a downward swing. On the advice of his doctor, Dad moved into Pleasant View Lodge in January of 1999, and is once again doing very well. My parents raised three children. Dad has seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He also has a sister, Maria, who is 96 years old. (Only 96—according to Dad) and a niece, Eugenie, who lives in Germany.



Queena Tory

born July 3, 1898

*...cars of today have nothing over a
cutter with buffalo robes, a foot warmer,
a team of horses with jingle bells, a
moonlit night and a handsome beau!*

I was born Queena Mae Everett on July 3, 1898 in Kingston, Michigan, the daughter of Alexander and Ella (Reid) Everett. My father heard about the homesteads being opened up in western Canada and bought a farm five miles south of Wetaskiwin in April 1905. During the summer of 1906, my father and another man filed on their homesteads north of Wainwright; there was no town there at the time. To obtain title on a homestead consisting of 160 acres, one paid \$10.00, agreed to break 20 acres and to live on the land for three months each year for the next three years. Father's homestead was on Section 2, Township 47, Range 7.

In summer, our days began at five in the morning and finished at eight or nine at night, and despite all the work I never had a cent to call my own. There were no child allowances or social assistance in those days; if there were needy families in the district, the women got together and made over clothes for the children, pieced quilts, etc. Often a box social and dance was put on and the proceeds given to the needy family.

The William Tory family arrived from Nova Scotia and took up a homestead in the spring of 1911. Mr. Tory and his oldest son, Aubrey, had come to Alberta the year before; they were carpenters who built stations and worked on hotels along the Grand Trunk Pacific

Railway line. Lewis Tory and I began going together before he joined up for the First World War, and during the two years he was in the army, we kept up a correspondence by mail. Years later, when I was considered old enough to go out alone with a beau (I was 23), Lewis and I would go to a dance put on by one of the six schools every Friday night. Cars weren't used in the wintertime then because the roads were not plowed, but the heated cars of today have nothing over a cutter with buffalo robes, a foot warmer, a team of horses with jingle bells, a moonlit night and a handsome beau! Lewis and I were married on January 18, 1922.

Lewis and I had a good life. We were blessed with five children between 1923 and 1935. In 1934, Lewis was offered the John Deere agency in Wainwright, so we rented out our farm and moved into town. Our house was one of the few in town to have its own well and waterworks, with a septic tank in the back yard; the town did not get waterworks until the summer of 1951. In 1943, Wainwright Buffalo Park was closed out, and the area was turned into a concentration camp occupied by German prisoners of war. It was later turned into an army training camp. Housing in Wainwright was scarce at the time, so we rented out rooms in our house to army couples.

After moving to town, Lewis and I both took on active roles in community affairs. Lewis was a member of the town council and the chamber of commerce. He was Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge for several years, and also District Deputy in 1949. I belonged to the Women's Auxiliary of the United Church and served as President for a year. In 1946, I joined the Royal Purple Lodge and served a term as Honored Royal Lady in 1950-1951 and as District Deputy in 1954-55 and again in 1958-59. In 1959, Lewis and I bought cabins in Sylvan Lake, and we operated these until Lewis died in 1963. Lewis and I shared a life together for 41 years.

In 1964, I traded in the cabins for a house in Red Deer, which I rented until 1979 and kept a suite in the basement. I also continued to stay involved with the church and did some volunteer knitting for the hospital until health reasons forced me to stop in 1990. I am now 101 years old and live in a lodge in Red Deer, Alberta. I have 29 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.



Elizabeth Runciman Tupper

born March 8, 1898

*It leaked like a sieve! The only dry place
was under the kitchen table, which had
an oilcloth on it.*

Elizabeth (Bessie) Tupper was born on March 8, 1898 on her grandfather's farm at Abbey Mill, Scotland. Later, her father moved to Quarry Pitts, Scotland, where he operated a dairy farm. Bessie attended school at Haddington, Scotland until she was 12 years old, and then she moved to Canada with her parents in 1910. They landed in New York, took the train to Montreal, then continued west to Kitscoty, Alberta. Bessie's dad had bought the W 1/2 17-52-2-W4 site without having seen it, from a land agent in Scotland for \$20.00 an acre. The agency had built a 12 by 18 foot

shack on it that had only tar paper on the roof. It leaked like a sieve! The only dry place was under the kitchen table, which had an oilcloth on it.

Bessie's dad bought four oxen and three horses to do his breaking. In the first summer, he bought a milk cow and two little pigs. The second year, the family broke up 100 acres of land with a walking plough and a sulky plough. The children went to school at Bellcamp, which was about four miles away, so they had a horse and democrat. They didn't go to school in the wintertime.

On January 18, 1918 Bessie married Jay Tupper, their neighbor boy. Bessie and Jay had four children together: Joe, Marion, Violet, and Forest. They also now have 14 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren, and 13 great-great grandchildren. Bessie is still in good health, and although her legs are played out, her mind is still sharp. She is living at Islay, Alberta in long term care. Her husband Jay, with whom she spent 62 years of marriage, passed away in 1980. Bessie's two sons and one of her granddaughters have also passed away.

Bessie passed away on May 27, 2000 at the age of 102.





Victoria Louisa Unwin

born December 21, 1897

I have done many different things

during my lifetime.

I was born on December 21, 1897 in Newark, New York, United States. Our family moved to Alberta in March of 1906. Father bought a farm 14 miles northwest of Lacombe. There were seven of us: my parents, four children, and Uncle William. I went to school at Iowalta, then to high school in Lacombe and to teacher training in Camrose. I was married for 25 years and am the proud mother of three (including one adopted child), grandmother of seven, and great grandmother of eight.

I have done many different things during my lifetime. I was a member of the Grande Lodge in Newark, New York: Flora, "Goddess of flowers." I nursed during the flu epidemics, and during the First World War, I delivered conscription letters and phone calls.

Over the course of my lifetime, I have probably covered 25,000 miles on horseback: riding to school, to basketball (where I served as team captain), to town, to church and hunting cattle. I campaigned for Prohibition, and I got signatures for telephone lines to be built in the Iowalta and Lincoln districts.

I taught school for 25 years (including four in Indian schools). For butter, I won first prize for Canada at the Toronto fair. Another of my talents is painting; hundreds of my paintings have been sold, and I have won prizes for water-color painting at the Edmonton Klondike Days and the Calgary Stampede.

When my sister, Annie Desring needed help, I cared for her. (She lived to the age of 102.) I am now 101 years and nine months old.

Submitted by Victoria Louisa (Kinley) Unwin.



Amy Williams

born September 29, 1897

Her mission in life is, and has been for many years, to crochet warm woolen afghan type blankets for world relief.

Amy Walin was born September 29th, 1897 to Olaf and Christine Walin in Wilmar, Minnesota where her parents farmed. In 1903, when Amy was six years old, her parents moved with their family of five children to Clive, Alberta, where they farmed and had two more children. A few years later they moved to Hughenden, Alberta where they homesteaded three quarters of land.

Amy finished her schooling and worked in a store in Hughenden. She began seeing a young man, Andrew Williams from Missouri, who now was farming the adjoining land and when they fell in love and decided to get married, Amy's father helped build a new house and barn for them. When that was finished, they were married in 1919 and raised a daughter and two sons: Pearl, Lloyd, and Clayton. They too, all grew up, married and had their own families. First, their daughter Pearl married Edwin Grue and moved to Armena where they farmed and raised a girl and three boys. Then Lloyd married and had two girls, but when they were five and three years old, Lloyd was killed in a plane crash while flying from Grande Prairie to Edmonton to an iron lung because he had contracted polio while working up there. The pilot and the doctor also were killed, all 31 years old. The wreckage was not found for eight months because it was in a dense forest area near Whitecourt. Then Clayton married and had one

son Shane, and when Shane was on his own, Clayton died very suddenly of a heart attack. All this was very hard on Dad and Mom to have lost both sons so tragically.

Regardless, Andrew and Amy lived to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Shortly after, Dad had to go into Bethany Nursing Home where he died three months later at the age of 87. Mother continued to live by herself until she moved into the brand new Rose Alta Lodge where she still lives.

Amy turned 103 on September 29, 2000 she has lived in three different centuries. In the meantime she enjoys every day. Her mission in life is, and has been for many years, to crochet warm woolen afghan type blankets for world relief. She's in good health and enjoys every day. She loves to discuss old times. She still has her daughter, Pearl, and son-in-law, Ed, two daughters-in-law, eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren, all of whom love her and visit her regularly. Her memory is very good and it's fun to talk about old times with her. She is happy and content and still going strong.





Miriam Josephine Woods

born January 21, 1899

*She remembers the change from
challenging adventures over narrow
dirt roads ...*

Miriam Josephine was born January 21, 1899 in Pulpit, England. She arrived in Alberta in 1912. Miriam was married for 49 years and is the proud mother of two, grandmother of five, great grandmother of 13, and great-great grandmother of four.

She remembers her attendance at the very first Calgary Stampede in 1912, as astonishing “in person” exposure to the great North American western culture so exotic to a young, English-born girl. Countless visits later to the Stampede with her growing family made Alberta’s “western” heritage an important part of her children’s tradition.

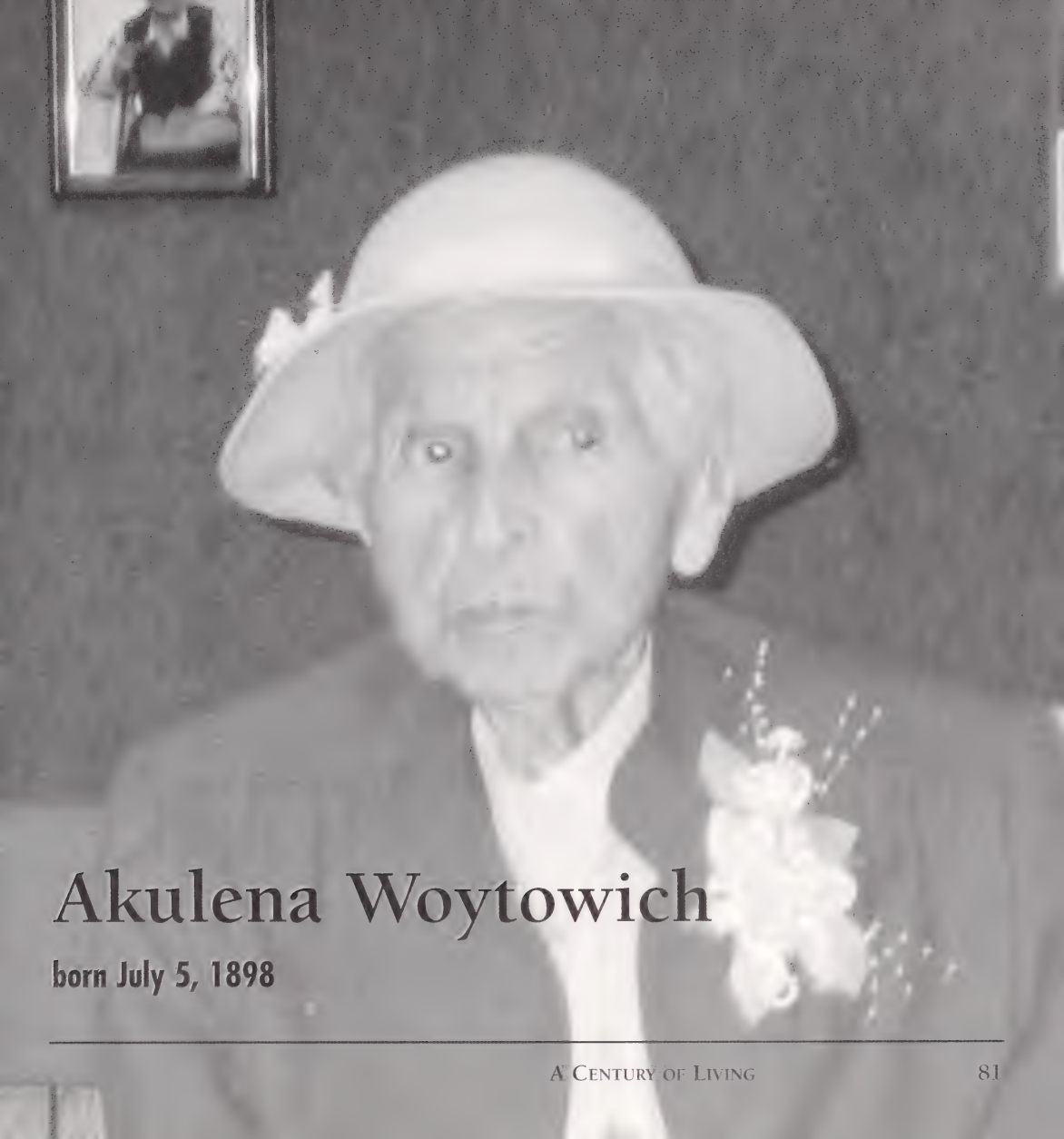
She also remembers vividly the first year of marriage, and the annual trips to the Banff area. She remembers the change from challenging adventures over narrow dirt roads to the fast, comfortable 90-minute trip on the super highways. In September of 1999, at 100 years of age, she traveled to Banff with undiminished wonder and enjoyment of the awe-inspiring natural scenery.

Despite geographical dispersion, she has inspired a large extended family to maintain close personal relationships with her in each generation including children almost 100 years younger than she who regard her as an important member of their family. Her entire family regards her as the ultimate homemaker and maternal ancestor.

French Pie

Line a 9 x 12-inch pan with wax paper or parchment. Roll fine 24 (2 cups) Graham wafers, set 1/2 cup of crumbs aside. Add 2 Tbs. Melted butter to remaining wafers. Mix well and pack in bottom of pan. Cream 3/4 cup butter, add 1-cup sugar; add 3 eggs, beaten well with a pinch of salt. Spoon mixture over crumbs in pan. Drain 1 can of crushed pineapple, spread on top of mixture, then put 1/2 pint (8 oz.) Of cream, WHIPPED, on top. Sprinkle remaining crumbs over top. Set in refrigerator to set.



A black and white portrait of an elderly woman, Akulena Woytovich. She is wearing a light-colored, wide-brimmed hat with a small flower on the side. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored blouse. A large, light-colored floral corsage is pinned to her left breast. In the upper left corner, there is a small, framed picture of a person, possibly a family member, sitting in a chair.

Akulena Woytovich

born July 5, 1898

*Times were hard but the family
remained very close and was able to
survive.*

Akulena Woytowich was born on July 5, 1898 in Vladimer, Ukraine. She was the fifth child of Konstantine and Anastasia Sharko. As a girl growing up in the older days, it was very hard. Girls were not encouraged to go to school. The parents kept them at home to help with household duties, chores, field work, herding cattle, etc. The boys went to school to learn how to read and write so that when they went off to the army, or working out, they could write home once in a while. But Akulena also wanted to learn how to read and write. One day she snatched off with her brothers, without permission. At school, she asked the teacher to give her a "Reader," so she could take it home to learn how to read on her own. The

teacher told her that if she would come back the next day, he would give her a book, knowing all along that her parents would not allow her to come back the next day. Akulena was persistent enough and with help from her brothers, she eventually learned to read on her own. She later spent many hours reading the family Bible.

In 1918, Akulena married George Woytovich whom she had met earlier through her sister who was courting George's brother. They had four boys. Being a young family in a poor country where times were tough and work was hard to find, the family decided to immigrate to Canada. In order for them to come over, they had to have a sponsor in Canada. Akulena's brother Harry Sharko was able to sponsor some of them, because he was already established in Canada. Also, George's sister Pauline, who had immigrated to the United States earlier, was able to sponsor her brother.

On September 29, 1927, the family set out for Canada. They left their village by train to the Port of Danzig. On October 4, 1927, they boarded a ship and sailed to London. There they boarded an Ocean Liner and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean which took about two weeks. They arrived in Montreal on October 14, 1927 where they boarded a train to take them to Alberta. They arrived in Alberta on October 24, 1927 and stayed with Akulena's

brother Harry for one year until they were able to purchase their own house. On March 7, 1929 their fifth son was born.

In the spring of 1930, they bought their own homestead in the Coolidge District (SE 25-64-25-W4). They built their first log house with the help of neighbors. As they had very little cultivated land, George had to go out looking for work to supplement their income. Akulena was left on the homestead with the boys. They survived by picking berries, fishing, etc. They also were fortunate that wild game was very plentiful. There was never a shortage of food. The boys also learned how to snare and trap skunks, beavers, squirrels, weasels and rats. They also picked and sold blueberries. In later years, they began to saw and sell lumber.

Akulena always had a very large garden and a good supply of vegetables that were also stored away for the winter. Times were hard but the family remained very close and was able to survive. Akulena lived on the farm until September 1998 and then moved to the Athabasca Auxiliary Ward where she presently resides. She is very thankful for the loving care and attention she receives there. Her memory is still very good and she is able to get around with the walker.

Neighbors were very good and everyone always helped each other out. Akulena's home was a "stopping place" for anyone going fishing or hunting in the area in the early days. There was always extra food around and everyone enjoyed her hospitality. Akulena loved her garden and flowers and spent many hours taking care of them. She loved cooking and baking for all the "hungry boys". Akulena's husband George passed away on December 7, 1948. She has 17 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.





Myrtle Ella Yeager

born April 14, 1900

*These early homestead years were hard
ones for Myrtle and her sisters and
brother.*

Myrtle Ella Yeager is a resident of the Milk River Long Term Care Facility. She was born on April 14, 1900, in the County of Traverse, Minnesota, United States. Her name then was Myrtle Lundgren, and her parents were Anton W. Lundgren, born in Norway, and Hester (Knoles) Lundgren, born in Minnesota. Myrtle had two older sisters. In 1903, not long after a son was born, her father, Anton, died after a work-related accident. Myrtle's mother, having been left with four small children, took a course in nursing so she could provide for her family.

In 1909, two of Hester's sisters and their husbands and families left Minnesota and moved to Alberta to take out homesteads in the Pendant d'Oreille community. Hester and her family came with the others and she also got a homestead. The families stayed in Magrath for the winters and went out to the homesteads in the summers for a few years, until they were able to build houses that were good enough to live in all year round.

These early homestead years were hard ones for Myrtle and her sisters and brother. They were only able to go to school while they were in Magrath in the winter. A school was started after about four years, though, in an empty former settler's house. Myrtle's mother was often called away to care for maternity patients and sometimes other cases, when the doctor called her. The children then stayed by themselves, but were quite near to their aunts and uncles.

In 1919, Myrtle married George Yeager who had also come to the Pendant d'Oreille area with his parents, from Minnesota, in 1912. Myrtle and George lived on George's homestead until 1927. During these years three daughters had been born. The family then moved to Saskatchewan, near Saskatoon, where two of George's brother had settled. They stayed and farmed in Saskatchewan for a number of years and another daughter was born there.

Myrtle was very busy during these years. Along with taking care of her family and sewing for them, she looked after a large garden each year, raised chickens and turkeys, helped with the milking, and sometimes stooking. She also cooked for many extra men during harvesting, and did a lot of canning of vegetables, meat and fruit each year.

In 1943, George and Myrtle and their two youngest daughters moved back to Alberta and settled in Milk River. George worked in highway maintenance and road construction for a number of years. In 1960, he became Park Warden for Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. Myrtle worked with him in the Park and did cleaning chores and a lot of painting and regular maintenance. They retired from there in 1967.

They enjoyed few years of visiting in California and British Columbia where three of their daughters were living. For many years they drove there by car, and later went by

plane. In 1979, they moved into the Prairie Rose Lodge in Milk River, shortly after their 60th wedding anniversary. George died in 1981 and Myrtle continued to reside there until 1995. She did a lot of handwork during these years, such as crochet work, knitting, latch hook and needlepoint. Her oldest daughter also lived in Milk River, so Myrtle spent time with her quite often. Soon she was blessed with 13 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

Myrtle was able to remain in the lodge until April of 1995, and then she was no longer able to go out to meals by herself. By October of 1995 she had moved into the Long Term Care Facility in Milk River. She is still able to enjoy visiting with friends and the many relatives who make special trips to Milk River to visit her. She moves about well in her wheelchair and is able to feed herself. These days she is looking forward to her 100th birthday in April 2000.

Submitted by Bernice Neal, daughter of Myrtle Yeager.





Difficult Times

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Difficult Times



Elizabeth Carman

born April 15, 1898

*... her husband died suddenly and she
was left to raise her four children on her
own. She never remarried.*

Elizabeth was born April 15, 1898 in Montreal, Quebec. She was the only child of physician and surgeon, Dr. Fredrick Thompson and his wife, Bessie, nee MacWilliam.

Elizabeth attended Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's private school in Montreal when she was 11 years old, graduating in 1917 when she was 19. From there, she went to New York to study at the New York School of Fine and Applied Art for two years, living at the Studio Club. Although she was offered positions in New York, when she graduated she preferred to return to Montreal where she taught art part-time at a private school.

In 1924, Elizabeth married Raymond Carman. They had two sons and two daughters. She has 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. The youngest daughter lives in the Okotoks area, her eldest son lives in Nova Scotia, and the others live in Quebec.

In 1944, her husband died suddenly and she was left to raise her four children on her own. She never remarried. The family moved to their country home in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. When the children were in their teens, they all returned to Montreal.

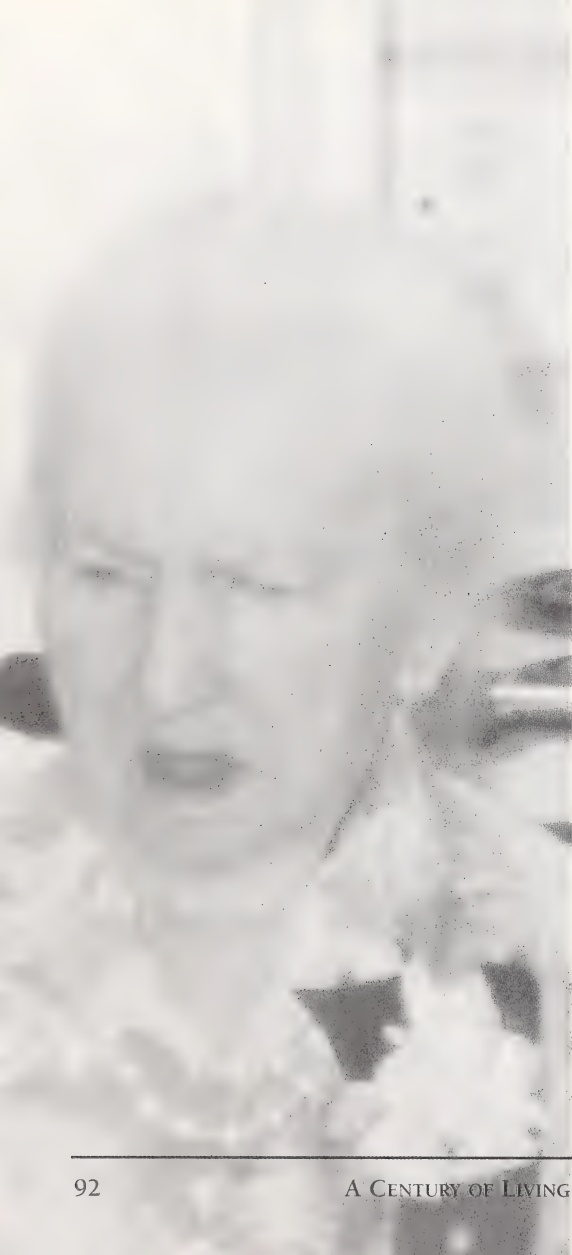
During the Second World War, being a member of the I.O.D.E., she knitted for the members of the Armed Forces who were overseas at the time. At the end of the war, she and a small group of the I.O.D.E. members organized the Cygnet Club and they knitted baby layettes for a hospital in Montreal for needy mothers.

Elizabeth's hobbies included drawing, knitting, sewing, reading and walking. She continued knitting for the hospital in Montreal where her father was Head Surgeon, even after she moved west, until she went into the nursing home in High River. Sometime in the late '50s, she went back to the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal and took further art lessons

from Dr. Arthur Lismer (a member of the Group of Seven Artists). Being an only child, books were her friends and she read a lot. She also did a lot of sewing and made her daughters' and her own clothes. Walking was her main source of exercise and she always enjoyed it.

Elizabeth moved west in January 1988 to live with her daughter in the Okotoks area after two years she moved into the Sandstone Lodge in Okotoks where she resided until she broke her hip in December 1996 and was in the nursing home in High River since that time. Elizabeth passed away on February 25, 2000.





Auguste Hortense Richter

born July 18, 1898

*During the '40s, the maxim was "make
it do, wear it out, make it over".*

Auguste Hortense Richter was born on July 18, 1898, in Riga, Latvia. Her family moved to Russia. She became fluent in Latvian, German and Russian languages. Her father, August von Geher, was sent to Siberia as a political prisoner. Her elder sister went one day to the city to buy food and never came back. After returning to Riga, Auguste's mother was killed and her younger sister disappeared.

In 1919, Auguste married Karl Ernst Richter. Living conditions in Latvia were intolerable. Assistance came from the North American Baptist Association (United States)

and from the Mennonite Brethren of western Canada. Karl and Auguste, with their three small girls, set out for Canada, travelling by train from Riga to Bremen, Germany, embarking on the steamship 'Krefeld' and after three weeks on the ocean arriving in Quebec City on August 28, 1928. A CPR immigrant train carried them across Canada to Namaka, Alberta, where they shared the home of a Mennonite family while Karl helped with the harvest.

The family soon moved to Calgary, where Karl found employment as a painter and decorator. There were no language classes for immigrants and the family did the best they could, eventually becoming fluent in English, and Auguste added a fourth language to her list. A small house on the outskirts of the city became their home. The depression years were extremely difficult economically, socially and psychologically. Caring for a husband and five children, planting a large vegetable garden, raising a flock of chickens and keeping a cow, kept Auguste and everyone fully occupied from dawn to dusk. Her maxim was "first work, then enjoyment". Her main enjoyment was visiting with friends.

Folk remedies kept the doctor away. The treatment for the flu was a cold compress around the throat, hot fluids and many blankets

to promote the essential sweating. Recipes for her ethnic cooking were all in her memory bank. Patterns for knitting mittens and sewing clothing came also from her memory. During the '40s the maxim was "make it do, wear it out, make it over". In spite of rationing, Auguste sent many parcels overseas. When the older children became employed, a radio arrived and brought more enjoyment. Auguste found relaxation in going to the movies and collecting the dish of the week until she had a whole set of fine china.

The final quarter of her century brought new challenges. Karl died in 1986 after 67 years of marriage. Auguste once more learned the art of living among strangers of diverse customs. She celebrated her 101st birthday on July 18, 1999 in the George Boyack Nursing Home. She has five children, five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Auguste passed away on November 9, 1999 at the age of 101.



Aaltje Smit

born October 20, 1899

*Without machinery, the work was often
hard and demanding.*

Aaltje Smit was born on October 20, 1899 in Rouveen, a small Calvinist town in Eastern Netherlands. She was the second of a very religious family of nine. Since the whole town was made up of farmers, Aaltje, too, started to work in the fields at the young age of 11. Without machinery, the work was often hard and demanding. In the summer they did the haying, harvesting, and later dug potatoes, as well as milked the cows twice daily. But it wasn't all drudgery. When evening came, they often returned from the fields with friends and neighbors, singing all the way home.

Aaltje married a local farmer's son, Roelof Smit, at the age of 23. They would be married for 21 years. Aaltje and Roelof moved from their hometown and started a farm about 20 kilometres away. It did not take long before

the children came - seven in all. One child, the youngest, died at the early age of nine months. Roelof died tragically not long after the infant's death. The year was 1943 - the middle of Second World War.

Times were rough toward the end of the war, but Aaltje and her children came through it all right. In the early '50s, her son and one of her daughters, who already had a young family, immigrated to Canada. In April of 1954, Aaltje followed with three of her unmarried daughters. They settled in Edmonton. It didn't take long before the three daughters were married. Fortunately, they chose to live near one another and visits were many. Later, Aaltje moved into an apartment within a few blocks of her three daughters. Then, at the age of 87, she moved in with her daughter Grace.

At 97 years old, after a fall, Aaltje had to be hospitalized briefly. She recuperated nicely but needed more assistance than her daughters could provide. A place at Dickinsfield in north Edmonton was found for her. She still remains there and enjoys daily visits from her children. Although her memory is failing, she continues to sing and recite the old songs from her childhood. Last but not least, her religion still comforts her. Aaltje has 19 grandchildren and 48 great grandchildren.



Mary C. Turlock

born August 5, 1898

... you made life so worthwhile,...

Mary C. Turlock was born in Austria on August 5, 1898 and immigrated to Canada with her parents and their family of five on May 5, 1904. They settled onto a homestead some 18 miles north of Regina, Saskatchewan and remained there for the next eight years. The family's next move was to the Lakenheath district southwest of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, where Mary remained until her marriage to Jack Turlock in 1917.

The early years of Mary's marriage were spent in Saskatchewan, where she bore three boys: Alf in 1918, William in 1919 and Walter in 1927. In 1932, Mary, Jack and their boys moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta for two years and then to Brooks, where Mary resided until shortly after her husband Jack passed away in 1958.

A few years later, bored with doing

virtually nothing, Mary disposed of her home in Brooks and went to the Columbia Ice Fields, where she was engaged as the cook for "several" (five) years. After retirement Mary moved to Kelowna and then back to her roots in Saskatchewan before retiring again to Medicine Hat where she could be nearer to part of her family. All of Mary's brothers and sisters are deceased except one, Helen, who at the age of 91 still resides in Vancouver and lives by herself. Mary's youngest son Walter tragically lost his life in a truck accident in 1988.

Mary resides in Sunnyside Care Centre, Medicine Hat, and although confined to a wheelchair, she still maintains her sense of humour and appears quite content to be where she is. She is very loving, gives big hugs and enjoys fashions! Although her hearing is very poor, her eyesight is excellent and one of her favorite pastimes is admiring flowers. All her life, Mary was an avid gardener and loved the outdoors. There was little associated with the outdoors that she did not like.

Mary Turlock, may you survive a long time yet and have many more years to admire and enjoy your flowers. May you reap the just rewards of life that you so richly deserve. During the lean and hungry years of the 1930s, you made life so worthwhile, even though you had very little to work with. You were generous to a fault, and your family always came first.

Anne Vane

born June 25, 1900

*She speaks with nostalgia of the
depression years when everyone made
the best of the situation and when
everyone worked together and enjoyed
each other's company.*

Anne Vane was born June 25, 1900 in Nottingham, England. She was the 10th child of a family of 13. She is the last remaining member of that family. The family immigrated to Canada in 1912, settling in Edmonton. After a few years, the family moved to Winnipeg, where Anne met and married her husband Maurice in 1920. Their only child, Raymond, was born in 1926.

Her love of cooking, reading, playing bridge, and collecting works of art, antiques, and fine china have provided her with a full and rewarding life. She is a respected connoisseur, recognizing the workmanship and value of fine furniture and paintings. Many people have enjoyed her wonderful jams, jellies, pickles, etc. She was still baking bread and buns until she was 96.

She speaks with nostalgia of the depression years when everyone made the best of the situation and when everyone worked together and enjoyed each other's company because no one had much money and they were all in "the same boat". After the Second World War, Anne and Maurice moved to Victoria, British Columbia. After 41 years of marriage, Maurice passed away in 1962, but Anne remained in Victoria until 1984 when she moved to Calgary to be closer to Raymond and his family. She lived in an apartment near the family, joined several bridge groups and made many new friends.

Anne is now in a nursing home, but still goes out frequently to play bridge and lunch with friends. Raymond passed away in 1998. She continues to come to family dinners on holidays to visit her three granddaughters and four great grandchildren. Her reading and bridge games help to pass her time.





Prairie Life



Dorothy Allen

born June 2, 1900

Her family came north by rail in two boxcars; the family rode in one car and the cows and horses in the other.

Dorothy Holmes Allen was born June 2, 1900 in Wessington Springs, South Dakota. Her family moved to Canada in 1902 and settled in what is now the Shellbrooke, Saskatchewan area. Her family came north by rail in two boxcars; the family rode in one car and the cows and horses in the other.

Dorothy went to a country schoolhouse in the Pleasantville district. Her mother, Margaret Holmes died of cancer when Dorothy was 12 years old. After her mother died, Dorothy cared for her two-year-old brother, Vincent. In addition to Vincent, Dorothy had one younger and four older siblings.

As a young teenager, Dorothy worked for her neighbors helping them when they were ill or expecting a baby. As Dorothy got older she was responsible for the housework, milking the cows on the farm and taking the cream and milk to the factory. She also worked at Woolworths in Saskatoon.

Dorothy was married in 1918 to Floyd Allen. They had seven children, Verna, Bernice, Marvin, Kenneth, Shirley, Bonnie Jean and Garry. Dorothy and Floyd farmed in Sturgeon River and in the Dirty '30s they moved north to the Rapid Bend district where they raised cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and chickens, as well as some grain and alpha seed. They also cut hay in the hayfields of the Prince Albert National Park

and Dorothy sold cream and frying chickens. Even though times were very difficult, resourcefulness and hard work helped them to keep their family fed and many times help friends and neighbors in need.

During the Second World War in 1943, Dorothy moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta, where Floyd was a guard in the Prisoner of War camp. After the war, they moved back to the farm in Saskatchewan for a short time and then returned to Medicine Hat in 1948 where they lived in a house on Riverside Northwest. Floyd was employed with Experimental Station in Suffield, Alberta. Dorothy worked at tourist cabins.

Floyd died in 1968 after 50 years of marriage, leaving Dorothy alone for the next 27 and a half years in the same house on Riverside that they had built in 1948. One of her favorite pastimes was baking. On a regular basis, her home was filled with the delicious smells of fresh baked bread or cookies. Her freezer was always stocked with a good supply of cakes and other goodies. Dorothy was always prepared for any guests that might drop in for tea or coffee, including any one of her children, 16 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, and her great-great grandchild.

In 1995, Dorothy had the misfortune of breaking her hip. She now resides in South Country Village.





Hilda Maude Bates

born August 31, 1900

*... there was an epidemic of flu that
struck the area and everyone that was
able was sent to look after the sick.*

Hilda Maude Bates was born August 31, 1900 in Coteau, NWT (fewer than 1000 miles from Regina). Maude's parents, Arthur and Lulu Brigden, had moved earlier that year from their first home in Roslin, Ontario.

Maude's family lineage, on her mother's side, has been traced back to the 1700s. Maude, a seventh generation Canadian, can proudly state that her great-great-great-great grandfather, David Embury, was a United Empire Loyalist.

Maude was the third oldest of the 10 children in the family. As the family grew in size so did the chores around the farm. These chores included cooking, cleaning, helping look after the younger children in the family, and working outside feeding animals and milking cows. There were fun times after the chores; lots of games like hide and seek and 10 children playing ball. Of course there were church picnics and gathering of neighbors and relatives for social activities.

In 1917, there was an epidemic of flu that struck the area and everyone that was able was sent to look after the sick. Maude (age 16) was sent to look after a family and recalls how scared she was being away from home in a strange place and really not knowing what to do. The family was very sick but all survived.

Maude met Lorne Bates in the early 1920s and married him on December 25, 1923. She moved to the Bates farm just west of Regina. They raised three children. The farm is still being farmed today by one of the grandsons. There were hard times on the farm, especially in the 1930s when there was very little money. Harvest time was busy, with three meals to cook a day for the thrashing crew as well as providing morning and afternoon lunches. Maude found time in between to preserve vegetables from the garden and

Saskatoon berries. She sewed as well and made her own soap. She also found time to quilt and hook rugs.

Maude was active in the United Church women's group. The ladies put on teas, bazaars and fall suppers to help raise money for the church. She was an Elder of the Church. During the long Saskatchewan winters the family played cards with neighbors and Maude became an avid curler. In 1963, Maude and Lorne sold the farm to their son, Douglas, and moved into Grand Coolee. Lorne passed away in 1964 but Maude continued to live there.

In 1996, the family felt she could no longer live alone and Maude moved to Calgary to live with her daughter. In February 1998, Maude became a resident of the Forest Grove Nursing Home where she still resides. Maude enjoys good health. She enjoys walking and can be found with a book in her hands. Maude has six grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and will become a great-great grandmother this year.



Nicolas Bauman

born December 20, 1897

A greenhouse was built, where he grew

*thousands of flowers and then
transplanted them into the beds
prepared around the campus.*

Nicolas Bauman, was born in Georgia, Russia on December 20, 1897. He immigrated to Canada with his mother and six siblings in 1914, just before the First World War broke out. He completed grade eight in Russia, but took it again in Manitoba, where they settled, in order to learn the English language. His mother, a widow, having lost all except the clothes they brought, struggled to support her family, and soon Nicolas found a job as a farm hand. He was 16. From then on, he not only supported himself, but also helped his mother, and often one more of his siblings.

In his early twenties, Nicolas came to Aberdeen, Saskatchewan seeking work. He was hired by a local farmer who had large fields to look after. Nicolas was able to work throughout the summer. Before long he became attracted to the farmer's daughter, Susan. Their mutual friendship blossomed into love and few years later, when Susan was just 17 1/2, they were married in the local Mennonite Brethren Church, with the blessing of Susan's father, an elder in the church.

Nicolas and Susan worked very hard, and over time acquired a farm and raised 10 children. They were active members of their local Mennonite Brethren Church, where Nicolas led the choir, and Susan was the pianist. Being musically inclined, Nicolas had learned to play the violin on his own by ear, and he and Susan often sang and played together at home or in church.

In 1955, Nicolas and Susan with the remaining six children still at home moved to Three Hills, Alberta. The following year they joined the staff at Prairie, where they served for almost 20 years. After serving in various capacities, Nicolas was given the responsibility of Prairie's yards. This became his love and passion. A greenhouse was built, where he grew thousands of flowers and then transplanted them into the beds prepared around the campus. The campus became radiant in color and beauty and was admired and enjoyed by

all. It was his joy and delight to see things grow, and he spent long hours watering and nurturing his plants.

Nicolas was also a devoted husband and father. He and Susan made many sacrifices to send each of their 10 children to Bible School at Prairie and some of them to grade school and high school. They were faithful in their church and community. At age 75, Nicolas retired from Prairie, and he and Susan moved to Mission, British Columbia. All their children were now married with families of their own. In Mission they kept busy again with gardening beautiful flowers, trees, shrubs and vegetables. They joined a local church, made friends with neighbors, and always showed hospitality to friends and strangers.

When their yard and big house became too much for them, Nicolas, being almost 95, reluctantly left their lovely place in Mission and moved back to Three Hills, where their daughters now lived. Still too independent to move in with one of them, he bought a small bungalow near downtown, so they could walk to all the shops and places of business. After a severe bout of shingles, Nicolas was weakened to the point of needing a three-wheel walker. He and Susan were known all around town as the cute little old couple walking together with their walkers to the Post Office, then to Matts for coffee, to the bank or IGA. They were out and about every day. Nicolas loved the outdoors

and God's wonderful creations. He was a great inspiration to his children. He was keen on eating healthy food and doing regular exercise. Even yet, if you were around, at 101, you might see him up in the very early morning doing some exercises. To his family he has left a rich legacy. His love for his Creator has challenged and inspired us. His enduring love for his beloved, now invalid wife of 75 years, Susan, warmed the hearts of all that saw them. His love for his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren has provided security to them.

Though his hearing and eyesight grew very dim, his handshake was warm and strong to any old friend or acquaintance that took the time to stop in. His smile was radiant, and the visit was worth it when you heard him say, "Thank you for coming." Nicolas passed away on February 9, 2000.





Hilda A. Carlson

born March 22, 1896

Hilda is the proud mother of four sons. Clare lives in Los Angeles, Vic lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, Mel lives in Calgary, and Milt died in Edmonton in November 1991. She has 10 grandchildren (two in California, four in New Zealand, and four in Alberta). She has 16 great grandchildren (four in California, seven in New Zealand, and five in Alberta).

When Hilda wasn't travelling, her hobbies included cooking, baking, gardening, sewing, knitting and tatting.

Hilda Carlson was born on March 22, 1896 in a log cabin homestead at Beaver Hills, Alberta (just west of Elk Island Park). She had three brothers and three sisters, all of whom have passed away. She completed grade eight and a business course at McTavish Business College in Edmonton. She has credits in typing, shorthand and bookkeeping. She worked from 1915 to 1918 as a secretary and bookkeeper for the Edmonton City Dairy. In 1918, she married V.C. Carlson. They lived in Calgary for approximately two years, and then moved to Edmonton where Hilda lived until December of 1991.

After her husband's death in 1950, Hilda lived with her son, Milt, until his death on November 26, 1991. Since then she has lived with her sons and daughters-in-law. She lived with Vic in Christchurch, New Zealand from December 1991 to February 1992, and each November to February from 1992 to 1997. She lived with Clare in Los Angeles, United States for several months each year from 1992 to 1999. She lived with Mel and his wife Betty in Calgary, Alberta for several months from 1992 to 1999.

Some of Hilda's favorite memories are of her family reunions with her four boys and daughter-in-law (Betty) between 1982 and 1991. Hilda loved to travel. She went on five cruises: Vancouver to Alaska; Panama Canal; Great Cities of Asia; (Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Borneo, Manila Corrigidor, Canton, Hong Kong) Tahitian Islands; and Fjords of Norway including Spitzbergen.

Hilda traveled extensively during the family reunions, airplane and automobile travel throughout the western United States. (Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, Sequoia and Yosemite Park), a low level flight over the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Mount Saint Helens and Mount Rainier. A flight from Washington, D.C to London, England via the Concord supersonic jet aircraft followed by nine days in London and surrounding area and several more days in Scotland (Edinburgh) and Wales (Lambaris). A flight to Inuvik, NWT including a side trip to Tuktoyaktuk and a low-

level overflight of the Mackenzie Delta to Aklavik. Hilda celebrated "Midnight Madness" in Inuvik on the longest day of the year.

When Hilda wasn't travelling her hobbies included cooking, baking, gardening, sewing, knitting and tatting. She stopped doing most of these hobbies around 1990, with the exception of knitting, which she continued until 1993. In August 1999, Hilda was admitted to the Municipal Hospital in Canmore, Alberta as a long-term patient.





Annah Weins Crough

born November 19, 1898

*Going to town on Saturday night and to
church on Sunday were their biggest
social events.*

Annah Weins Crough was born in Independence, Iowa, United States on November 19, 1898 to Barbara Rose Wengert and Theodore Anthony Weins.

In 1914, Annah, her mother, and her sister Hilda (Browns) took a train to Calgary and then onto Rockyford, Alberta, where her father and brother Joe were busy establishing a store in the new town of Rockyford. Annah also had two other brothers, Raymond and Paul, and an older sister, Marie Dunlap. Her father was a successful “miller” in Independence before the wanderlust led him to Montana, and then to southeast central Alberta.

Annah spent some time in high school in Dubuque, Iowa, before traveling to join her father. She continued her education at the FCJ Convent in Calgary. In 1919, at the first wedding held in St. Rita's Catholic Church, Annah married an Ennismore, Ontario Irishman, Joseph Augustine Crough. He was called “Gus”, but Annah did not like the name, so she called him “Joe” and the name stuck. Before Joe and Annah were married, one of their forms of entertainment was to attend dances in the neighboring town of Rosebud, six miles away. The young couple would use a hand car on the railroad with friends to travel to and from the dance. The men complained bitterly that it was all downhill going to Rosebud, but uphill coming home!

Annah and Joe raised their family of five boys and two girls, in a series of dilapidated prairie farms, where Joe worked hard at mixed farming to feed his family. In the early 1940s, Annah added an upright player piano to their home for her and her family's enjoyment. Going to town on Saturday night and to church on Sunday were their biggest social events. Joe and Annah remained married for 44 years until his death in 1963.

Annah is a survivor. With the number of mouths to feed, Annah made great use of garden and wild vegetables and fruit. Her gardens were in constant care and “work” as were the rows of potatoes planted in a field. She ‘canned’ for her family all summer and fall, including sauerkraut, rootbeer, homemade ice cream and dandelion wine which always prompted a disagreement between Joe and Annah as to where to store the wine.

Annah hated to drive mechanical machinery, especially a car. Once when the men were harvesting the fields, Dad told Mother to bring out lunch or dinner. By the time she piled the three youngest into the car with food and drinking water, she was in a sweat (literally!). The car lunged into forward, the kids screeched, the water spilled and Annah cried. When she crossed the low spot in the field, she again “killed” the motor and more tears. But, she survived all the hardships of early prairie life.

She is a quiet, unassuming woman who was never presented with any medals or awards, but she felt her greatest achievement were her seven children. Annah also has 37 grandchildren, 68 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She is a person with great faith and felt that God would provide.



Annette Dargis

born September 1, 1900

In addition to the positive role, the

*Dargis family never lacked warm
woolen socks and sweaters.*

Annette, nee Boucher, was born September 1, 1900, in Lowell, Massachusetts. She was the second child of a family of four. In 1909, when Annette was nine years old, she lost her mother during the birth of the fourth child. Her brother Jimmy was adopted and was never heard from again since the separation of the children. Annette was adopted by her uncle, Father Joseph Michel Boucher. Father Boucher's work kept him mostly in Montreal but he traveled from east to west encouraging settlers to move west. Due to his travelling and fear of neglecting Annette, she completed her studies and became a schoolteacher. Annette still has a great love for music and drama.

Since her own father and adopted father were very busy, Annette was very lonely. One day, the couple who had adopted her sister Gremaïne, stopped to visit Annette. This was a joyful reunion for them. Annette continued to teach while living in a very restricted circle of religious institutes, so her prospect for courting young men was very bleak. Her uncle advised her to travel west with her sister, where she eventually stayed.

Upon her arrival to Alberta in 1923, Annette had to upgrade her studies due to the fact that her teaching certificate was not recognized in Canada and her studies had all been in French. Father Boucher recognized her abilities and goodness and therefore introduced Annette to an acquaintance of his, Jean Baptiste Dargis. At the age of 24, Annette married Jean Dargis and together they raised six boys and two girls.

All the boys grew up following their father's footsteps, in the love of farming. Although her earlier life in the convents and rectories did not prepare her for farm life, Annette quickly learned to milk cows and round up cattle, while picking small twigs to start the fire at five in the morning.

Annette strongly believes in being a constant educator for her children, reminding her sons to be good to their wives, and to be more understanding towards their children. In

addition to the positive role, the Dargis family never lacked warm woolen socks and sweaters. Mending was always a never-ending task, which Annette enjoyed. Annette also enjoyed conducting choirs in her local church and belonged to the drama club and to Les Dames de St. Anne.

After farming for 41 years, Jean and Annette retired in St. Paul, where she became a role model for 17 years, to the youngsters in the neighborhood. At the age of 62, Annette learned to drive because her husband had poor vision and could no longer drive. In 1973, Jean passed away and Annette went to live with her son, where she kept busy making meals, gardening, housekeeping and knitting. She and Jean had been married for 49 years. For the next 16 years, she kept herself occupied.

Annette has 46 grandchildren and 65 great grandchildren. In 1988, Annette moved to Sunnyside Manor. Although she was reluctant at times to have someone help care for her, she adjusted quite well. Eventually, Annette moved to Extencicare in February 23, 1993, where she resides today.



Lenora Adelaide Sheffield Duce

born February 2, 1898

*This photograph, taken in Art Henson's
Photographic Studio in Cardston was
posed at the time when Laida was
employed as a photographer's assistant
to Henson.*



Lenora Adelaide Sheffield, called Laida, was born on February 2, 1898 in Cardston, Northwest Territories before it became Alberta. She was the fourth of 10 children born to William and Lenora Sheffield, who came from Utah in 1893. A pioneer childhood in the foothills of the Rockies shaped her view of life. She learned her skill with a needle early and worked with artistry on embroidery, hairpin lace, tatting, crocheting, piecing quilts and making clothing.

Her father, an avid reader, shared his love of literature with his children. The works of Shakespeare, Dickens, Tennyson, Kipling and Newbolt were read and enjoyed. Laida's love of poetry inspired her to write poems to accompany homemade gifts throughout her life. These witty little verses, and the more serious ones of comfort and encouragement are treasured by her family and friends.

When Laida was 18 she began working for the Cardston telephone office, where she quickly learned the skills needed to become manager, chief operator—a job she held until 1921 when Miss Laida Sheffield became Mrs. William Duce. She married a First World War Navy veteran, who was working in “Duce Brothers,” the family store in Cardston.

Rearing a family of three girls and three boys was a real challenge during the depression. But Laida made over clothing for

the children, preserved wild fruit, and made patchwork quilts with flour sack bags and wool that she had washed and carded for the filling.

In 1952, Bill and Laida moved the family to Lethbridge, where Laida found employment with a furrier. In the ‘60s they took in Laida's mother, sweet healthy Lenora, to share their home. Suddenly, on January 8, 1971, Lenora (99) died in her sleep, and three weeks later, on January 27, Bill died also, leaving Laida shaken and alone.

After a trip to England to visit her daughter she returned home to plunge into oil painting very successfully, taking courses at Lethbridge Junior College, and producing beautiful pictures for her loved ones.

Laida is now living in a nursing home in Cardston, where she still loves to read, tell stories, recite poetry, and with the aid of her walker goes to the dining room for meals and for other activities. On February 2, 2000 she turned 102 years old.

Lenora was married to William Duce for 50 years and is the proud mother of six, grandmother of 22, great grandmother of 36, and great-great grandmother of 23. She is still an entertaining and delightful person to visit, and is looking forward to being able to say, “I've lived in three centuries!”



A black and white portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly, light-colored hair. She is wearing glasses and a dark, patterned jacket over a light-colored blouse. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background consists of horizontal window blinds.

Marie-Joséphine Durocher (Avignon)

born March 11, 1899

*Her motto to life is simple; if you are
content with little you will always be
happy.*

Marie was born on March 11, 1899 in Montvicq, Allier France. Marie was an only child and was born weighing only 1kg, but was determined to live. In 1913, Marie and her mother came to Canada to join her father Antoine. They first lived in Edmonton, Alberta, but moved to the Lac La Biche area where Antoine acquired a homestead. On April 9, 1918, Marie married Josaphat Durocher in Lac La Biche. They farmed for a brief time, but when Joe became unsettled with farming, Marie bravely followed him to the rigors of the North, the Aklavik area, to become trappers. During the next few years, they lived in Northwest Territories and had five daughters. In 1931, they left the far north and settled in Lac La

Biche. They had another daughter while living there. In 1942, they moved to Fort McMurray, Alberta to establish a power plant like Joe had previously done in Lac La Biche.

In 1950, they retired first in Edmonton and then in Penticton, British Columbia. When Marie lost her husband, she decided to return to Lac La Biche. She built a house in town and lived there until she turned 98. She is now living in Lacalta Lodge, and still crochets and knits.

Marie has always been an avid churchgoer, and spends quiet moments in prayer each day. Marie has always lived a simple life. A very memorable moment for Marie was in 1945, when she and Joe made a trip on the Queen Mary to France to visit her father. Marie has six daughters, 31 grandchildren, 71 great grandchildren and 47 great-great grandchildren, a total of 155 descendants.

Her motto to life is simple; if you are
content with little you will always be happy.



Gladys May Dutertre

born July 30, 1899

“Here I stand, all ragged and dirty,

*When the boys come to kiss me, I’ll run
like a turkey ...*

The information shared below is from discussions with Nan Nan (a nickname she’s had since one of the first grandchildren pronounced it that way) over the last four years. I have taken an interest in Genealogy and have been very fortunate to have a grandmother, not only still living at 100 years, but still very “with it”.

Gladys was born on July 30, 1899, in De Smet, South Dakota. She was the third child in a family of eight children. One of the memories Nan Nan shared with me was a Christmas concert when she was about six or seven (I guess one can be forgiven if she can’t remember exact dates from that long ago). She was reciting her poem: “Here I stand, all ragged and dirty, When the boys come to kiss me, I’ll run like a turkey at which time, (older) brother Chris gave me a vicious punch in the back and I ran off the stage, bawling.”

Nan Nan also remembers the first time she saw a car, she was about six or seven. She ran in the house, screaming “Dad, there’s a runaway buggy without horses.” Dad came out and said, “No, Gladys that’s a car. It doesn’t need horses.” Nan Nan’s favorite sport is baseball, stemming back to her stint as captain of the boy’s baseball team.

At one point, when she was about 10 years old, the family was living at Uncle Warren’s house. He had an apple orchard and he had specifically told them to stay away from one apple tree. (Nan Nan thinks he might have been grafting two different trees.) Chris and Ethel dared her to shimmy up the tree and get them each an apple. After a while, Uncle Warren noticed some apples were missing and, not seeing any on the ground, started looking around. He noticed evidence of someone climbing up the tree and decided to wait

around to see who it was. Well, it wasn't too long before Gladys was climbing up that tree again. All of a sudden, she was receiving a switching on her legs. Down she came and, boy did she ever get it. Of course, Chris and Ethel stayed hidden so Uncle Warren thought it was just Gladys stealing those apples and Nan Nan states that she never told on them either.

Shortly after this incident, Gladys was sent to live with her Aunt Lynn in Lennox, South Dakota. (I don't know if that one incident led to that decision, or if it was the breaking point, or if it was based on finances; they were very poor and Aunt Lynn was "well off" and had no children.) She had beautiful clothes while she lived there. Her favorite picture of herself is the one taken when she was 12 years old, still living at Aunt Lynns. She remembers how beautiful her red hair looked, fashioned in ringlets for the picture.

She recalls coming home from school one day and seeing a letter from her mother on the hall table. Her mother had informed Aunt Lynn that they were selling everything and moving to Canada, where Gladys' father had a good job. Lynn was cautioned not to say anything to Gladys, thinking she was better off there. Gladys insisted on knowing what was in the letter and, when she found out, she insisted on being sent home. She thought, if my family

is going to get scalped by Indians, I want to be with them. Aunt Lynn sent her by train from Sioux Falls to Bryant, where Chris met her at the train station.

Gladys' father had already gone to Saskatchewan, leaving the rest of the family to come behind. They took the train from Bryant to Winnipeg. Nan Nan recalls sleeping on the benches in the Winnipeg train station, waiting for the rest of the trip. She remembers her mother going down one ramp (to buy tickets?), and then coming up another ramp and the conductor said the kids had already boarded. As mother was about to board, the kids spotted her down the platform and started yelling, "Mother, we're over here!". They took the train to Verdun, Saskatchewan, then a livery wagon to Wakaw, where her father had a job working as a grain buyer.

Nan Nan lived at home for a while, then got a job, working for room and board while she went to school. On September 20, 1916, she met and married John Louis Dutertre. They were married in a little log cabin in Wakaw; the same cabin her older sister had been married in. John had come to Canada from France in 1903. He had taken out land in the Three Lakes Municipality (Wakaw), and later built a house on one of the quarters. They had four children: Grace, Vernon, Robert, and

Grover. They lived there until 1927, when John heard of homesteads available in the Bonnyville area, where many French homesteaders had gone. They sold everything and John applied for a homestead in the Dupre area, northwest of Bonnyville. There he made field out of raw bush land and built another house.

Gladys' biggest contribution to the war efforts was her three sons, the two oldest voluntarily joined the army; the youngest joined the navy. She recalls the letters and care packages she sent to her boys. She thought she was doing something wonderful by sending them sardines, until they finally wrote and said: "please don't send anymore sardines." She sent fudge and Christmas cake, and even wrapped some strawberry jam (made from wild strawberries she had picked) really well and sent it to them. During the war, Gladys' only daughter Grace died, leaving Gladys to raise a second family of six children. The youngest child was only three months old when Grace died. In the 1940s, they left the farm and move to British Columbia. Nan Nan remembers she was working in a hospital in New Westminster when she heard the news over the radio that the war had ended.

John died in Edmonton in 1962, after 46 years of marriage. Their four children produced 16 grandchildren, 43 great grandchildren, and 39 great-great

grandchildren. During the last 37 years, Gladys has lived mainly in Edmonton and Bonnyville. In 1993, she moved into a seniors apartment in Bonnyville, where at the age of 94 she was still making pickles and pies and doing all her own cooking. From there, she moved to Bonny Lodge for a few years, and now resides in Extendicare Nursing Home. In the summer of 1998, Nan Nan had gone on a field trip out to a farm where she fell in love with Rita, a white horse. She became insistent that she was going to go for a horse ride. So, in November 1998, at the age of 99, she got all dressed up with a cowboy hat and boot (she had one leg amputated about 15 years ago) and went for a horse ride.

Her fondest memories are of her extended family. She loves to reminisce and can remember many incidents with great detail. She remembers how her kids loved the donuts she used to make. Her favorite recipe, though, was pies. She loved to make any kind of fruit pies and meat pies. Nan Nan has lived a rich and varied life and enjoys sharing her life story with family and friends.



Elizabeth Jane Fraser

born June 5, 1896

*Like most pioneer women, she made her
own bread and butter, and washed
clothes by hand ...*

Elizabeth Jane Fraser was born June 5th, 1896 in Euphrasis Twp, Ontario. She was the oldest of three girls. At an early age they lost their mother and came to Alberta in about 1902 with their dad, so their aunt could raise them. On April 20th, 1918, Elizabeth married Colin Fraser. A few weeks after they were married he was called to the First World War. When he returned from the war, Colin and his brother came to Teepee Creek, Alberta and filed on land. There they built a three-bedroom house and barn. In the fall, Elizabeth and their new daughter came by train to Sexsmith, Alberta, where Colin picked her and the baby up and took them to their new home at Teepee Creek.

Colin and Elizabeth raised a family of eight children, six girls and two boys. Like most pioneer women, she made her own bread and butter, and washed clothes by hand using a wash board and tub. When the men were in the field, at times for meals Elizabeth turned the wind mill on to call them. Elizabeth was a very active member of the United Church, always attending church, knitting socks and mittens for the bazaar's and helping with fall suppers. You could also find her helping with community functions, concerts and picnics. Their children went to school by one horse cutter in the winter and a cart and horse in the summer. They took drinking water to school using a big cream can. Milk, butter and meat were kept in an icehouse insulated with sawdust. Elizabeth did a lot of canning of wild berries and vegetables for winter use.

Elizabeth was always known for her fast walking. You would often find her walking over to her neighbors. There were always lots of neighbor children over as we had a big dam that we could swim in the summer and skate on the winter. Sometimes we had big bonfires and weiner roasts.

Elizabeth now has 25 grandchildren, and 43 great grandchildren.

Submitted by Dorothy Rycroft, daughter.



Samuel Naismith Goldie

born July 23, 1900

*He was known as a sharp shooter and
could put five bullets in the same hole.*



Samuel Naismith Goldie was born July 23, 1900 in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, Scotland and came to Canada on the SS Hesperion, June 26, 1912. He settled in Medicine Hat along with his parents, three brothers and two sisters. He married Elizabeth (Bessie) Sneddon in Calgary in 1936 and together they raised three children, Hugh, Mary and Robert.

Sam joined the staff of the Medicine Hat Post Office in 1917 and rose in the postal service to become the Postmaster at Medicine Hat in 1949, a position he held until his retirement in 1965 after 48 years of service. He served in the armed forces during the Second World War, as a weapons instructor in the Calgary Military District. He was known as a sharp shooter and could put five bullets in the same hole. He knew he had only six weeks to train the young soldiers, with skills that might save their lives and it was an awe-inspiring task.

On discharge, he became involved in the Boy Scout Movement as scoutmaster of the St. John's Scout Troop, serving for 23 years as a leader and District Commissioner. He was a driving force in the development of Camp Apistotoke at Elkwater Lake in the Cypress Hills. In September 1989, he was deeply honored at the opening and dedication of the Sam Goldie Lodge at the Camp. His wife Bessie, a Registered Nurse, helped him as the camp nurse in many of the Scout and Cub camps that were held under his supervision. The Sam

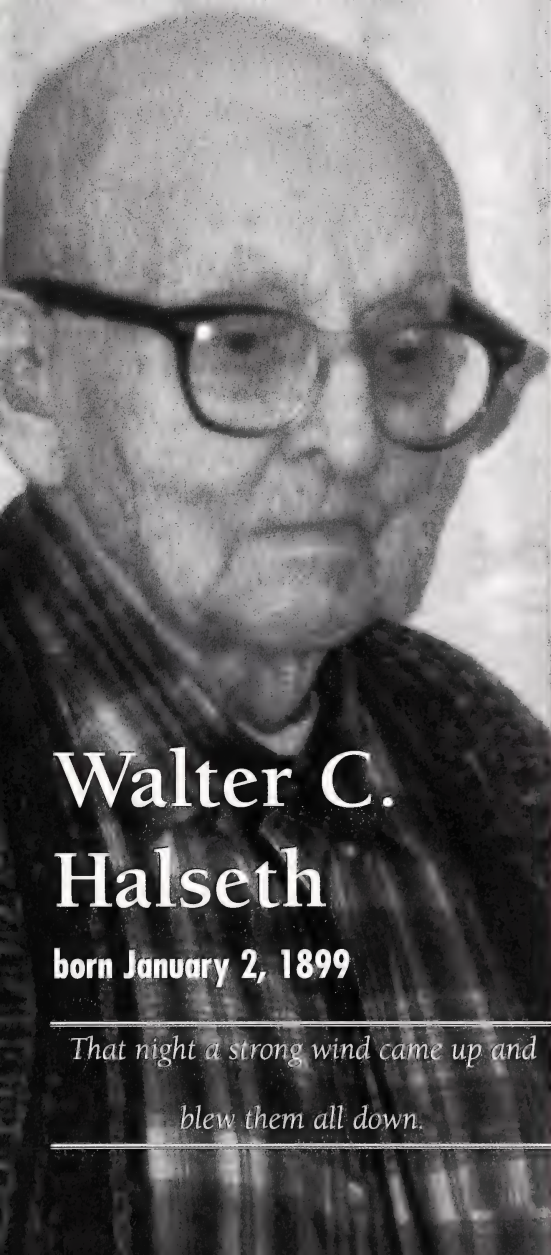
Goldie Park in Medicine Hat was named to honor his many contributions to the community throughout his career. He influenced many lives in a positive way, both fellow postal workers and his young scouts.

Sam's greatest love in life is bible history. He has written many books on the subject. He has spent many hours at his typewriter, producing reams of knowledge with his highly efficient one finger typing. Sam loves to share his views and revelations with anyone who will listen. It consumed his life, and keeps him busy to this day. He is a wonderful storyteller and has many tales about the early years in Medicine Hat and Scotland, and often used an intriguing story to carry across the point of a valuable lesson in life.

In 1988, he broke his hip and although it has limited his mobility, he continues to press on with life through various stages of disability. His impatient nature never lets him give up the good fight.

Sam was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. He is a man of great integrity and honesty and gave his time and money with no thought of reward. He not only taught the Christian way, he walked in it. He believes in God and remains true to his Source through good times and bad times. He is one of the best!





Walter C. Halseth

born January 2, 1899

*That night a strong wind came up and
blew them all down.*

Walter C. Halseth was born January 2, 1899 in Velva, North Dakota, United States. He arrived in Alberta in October of 1906. Walter was married for 61 years, when his wife passed away in 1989. They had three children, a son who passed away as an infant, another son who passed away in 1989 and a daughter who is still living today. They have nine grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Walter was a farmer for most of his life until the late 1940s when he purchased the Donalda Service. After many years of serving the public in the garage, he sold out and retired to his favorite past time yard-work. This he kept up until he was 93 years old when he moved to Heart Haven Lodge in Stettler, where he still resides.

Walter was a director on Donalda Co-op Locker Plant and the Donalda Co-op Creamery. He enjoyed curling in the winter and fishing in summer. One incident that stands out in Walter's mind is the year (1942) that he was building a barn. The walls were all up and they started putting up the rafters (for roof), but dusk came and they had to quit. That night, a strong wind came up and blew them all down. The next day the neighbors arrived and once again the rafters went up and roof was finished. The barn is still standing today.



Louise Emil Hammermeister

born December 12, 1898



*Her favorite past time was baking bread
and cinnamon buns, which she wishes
she still could do.*

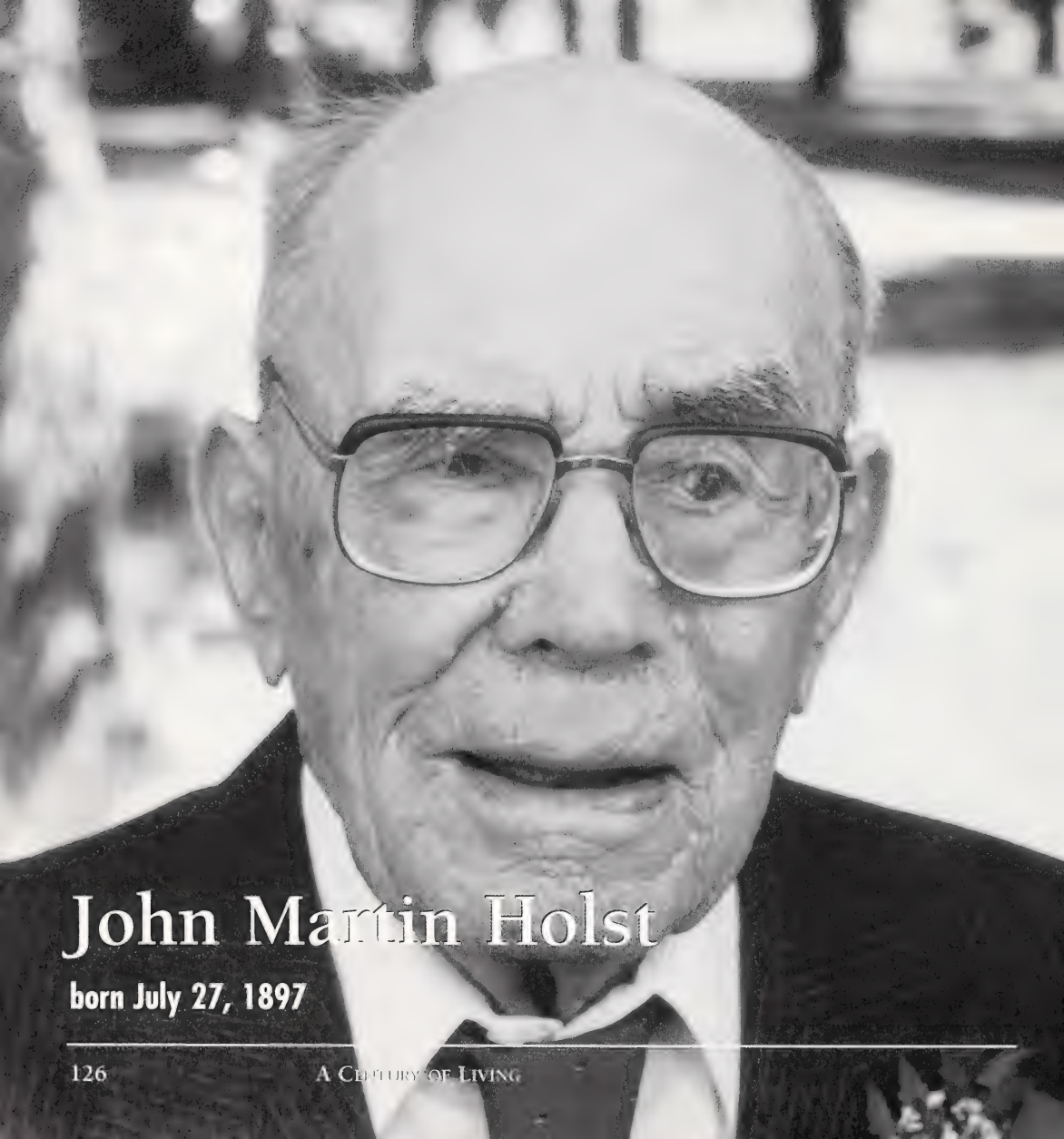
Louise Emil Hammermeister was born on December 12, 1898 in Alberta. Louise ran a farm in Ellerslie. She and her late husband, Emil, of 43 years lived approximately a quarter mile from the Ellerslie St. Paul Church, and she would walk to church for services. She would also help clean the church. Her fondest memories are during harvesting when all the farmers would help each other and she would make their lunches for them. Her favorite past time was baking bread and cinnamon buns, which she wishes she still could do.

Louise and Emil had four children. They include, her son Herbert (deceased) and her three daughters Margaret Schieve, Mildred Konkur and Noreen Moroz (deceased). She also has 10 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Louise would put her small children to bed and go out and do farm work by stooking. She did not contribute to sports as she had a lot of work on the farm with milking cows by hand, gathering chicken eggs and feeding the animals.

Now, her hearing is diminished but she still can get around with her walker. She still makes her own breakfast and has lunch and evening meals at the Good Samaritan Wedman House. Now that she has lots of time, she tries to knit or crochet, but her eyes and her arthritis bother her. She can't do either for any length of time. Louise is a very independent and an amazing lady.





John Martin Holst

born July 27, 1897

*... when a new irrigation project was
established in Hays, Alberta, the family
moved there in 1952.*

John Holst was born on July 27, 1897 in Katharinental, Ukraine, to John and Anna Holst. He is the oldest child, with three sisters and four brothers. John worked for the German government as a steam engineer during the First World War. In 1924, he and his brother Peter immigrated to Canada where he worked for a farmer in the Regina area until 1926 when he purchased a homestead at Masefield, Saskatchewan. He brought his family over from Germany a few years later.

In October 1928, he married Emma Schmidt. They had seven children, Martha, Leo, Walter, Joseph, Lawrence, Martin and Clara. Emma passed away in 1948, when the oldest was 17 and the youngest two. Times were tough in Saskatchewan, so when a new irrigation project was established in Hays, Alberta, the family moved there in 1952. There wasn't much spare time for entertainment but the younger kids fondly remember their weekly Saturday trips to Vauxhall to see a show there. John enjoyed curling and playing cards in the winter months. He was very active in the church and played a big part in building St. Claire's Catholic Church in Hays. John sold the farm to his youngest son Martin in 1968 and moved to Vauxhall where he continued with his carpentry trade. He sold that house in 1974 and moved back to Hays. That fall, he married Ella Staples. The next year they moved to Taber.

Ella passed away in 1981. John continued to live in his own home till the age of 96 when he moved to Clearview Lodge in Taber where he currently resides. He continued to make weekly trips to the farm until 1993, when he had to give up driving due to failing eyesight. His family and friends helped him celebrate his 100th birthday in 1997, at an open house honoring him. He has 21 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren.



Geesje Huls- Westerdyk- Pape

born April 22, 1899

*Geesje is a determined lady and never
gave up on anything.*

Geesje Huls Westerdyk-Pape was born on April 22, 1899 in Staphorst, Netherlands. She arrived in Alberta from overseas in June 1949. Geesje was married to Klaas Huls for 44 years and Ludolf Westerdyk for seven years and is the proud mother of three, grandmother of five, and great grandmother of nine.

Geesje is 101 years old and lives in a nursing home. Geesje still sews her own clothes. She reads and writes letters to her friends. She walks with the aid of a walker and is doing fine. She came to Canada with her family of five. Geesje was a sugarbeet worker and lived far away from the nearest town, she walked 10 miles, which is two hours walking, to town and then carried the shopping home to her small two-room sugarbeet house, which was very cold in the winter. She learned how to bake her own bread; at first it did not go well but slowly, her bread got better and better. Geesje is a determined lady and never gave up on anything.



A black and white portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly, light-colored hair. She is wearing glasses and smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a dark-colored top with a patterned scarf. The background is slightly out of focus, showing some indistinct shapes.

Muriel A. Johnson

born January 27, 1898

*She taught Sunday school lessons at
home as church was too far away.*

Muriel Adelaide Legate was born January 27, 1898 in Ceylon, Ontario to parents Robert and Elizabeth Legate. She and her twin brother, Murray Cyril were the youngest of a family of nine. They lived in Ceylon (near Owen Sound) attending school there until they graduated from high school. Music was an important part of Muriel's life. They came west by train to Alberta in August 1917 with their mother, joining the rest of the family. In 1918, Muriel and her brother Murray attended Camrose Normal Teacher Training College. Muriel taught school in Kilo (south of Provost), Governor (south of Spruce Grove), Creuzot (southeast of Gibbons) and in New Lunnon (southwest of Gibbons). In each school, Muriel taught Grades 1-9 including non-English speaking children. She loves to recall stories of those days even at 102 years of age.

In 1924, Muriel married a farmer, Carl S. Johnson, who had come to Canada in 1912 from Iowa, United States. Their mixed farm, 640 acres, was on the Victoria Trail, southeast of Gibbons. They raised a family of six girls who learned to do their part working in the home and on the farm. Muriel taught piano lessons and the love of music to her girls and several neighbor children. She taught Sunday school lessons at home as church was too far away. Muriel was active in the Pythian Sisters' Lodge in Gibbons many years.

In 1957, Muriel and Carl sold the farm and retired to Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton (eight years). Muriel had more time now for hobbies, handwork, choir and travelling. She taught two more years of school in Fort Saskatchewan until about 1960. Muriel was active in Women's Institute, the United Church and seniors' activities. Some of her fondest memories were of her travels to Alaska, which she did eight or nine times.

Muriel has been living in the Dr. Turner Lodge, Fort Saskatchewan, since 1984. She still plays the piano, though her sight is minimal, and loves to tell stories and visit her twin brother, Murray who lives in the Rivercrest Nursing Home, just four blocks away. Of course, she takes pride in her descendants, six daughters and their husbands, her 19 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.





Theobald Majeau

born January 8, 1897

*Working hard and saving their money,
they managed to save enough for a
down payment on a farm in Calahoo.*

My father, Theobald Majeau, was born on January 8, 1897 in Ste. Julienne, Quebec to Avila and Anna Majeau. He was the third oldest of a family of 15 children, and was educated to the fifth grade at Ste. Julienne. The school was across the road from where he lived. At the age of 15, he left home to go to work for an uncle who had a farm. He said it was hard to leave home but when he saw that there was not enough food on the table for his mother to eat after feeding the rest of the family, he decided he had to look after himself. He milked cows and raised tobacco with his uncle.

When the war broke out he was called to the army. Another uncle heard that he was called and told Dad to come and work for him. Dad's uncle applied for him to be excused from the army because the uncle was ill and needed Dad to run the farm. The application was accepted only days before he had to leave. Dad said that he had packed and was ready to go. He continued to work on the farm for several years and also did other jobs to make a living.

In 1921, Theobald came out west to Saskatchewan on a harvest excursion. He paid \$15.00 for train fare to Winnipeg and paid one half cent per mile the rest of the way to Saskatchewan. After harvest, he returned to Quebec. That winter he worked in the lumber camps. In 1923, he came back to the west at harvest time and made his home with Henry and Alice Majeau in Villeneuve, Alberta. He got his first job with Emile Lema as a farm hand. Dad started to take English lessons as he could only speak French. It wasn't long that he became bilingual—reading, writing and speaking both French and English. He taught himself to do math, and was able to manage his own affairs and business.

In 1927, and for three years after that, he worked in Cold Valley in the coalmines. He stayed in the bunkhouses that were supplied, and worked for 69 cents an hour, loading coal into boxcars. The shifts were 13 hours long. He

recalls one winter that the temperatures dropped to 63 degrees below zero. That made it very difficult to work, but they managed. For recreation they usually played cards (poker) and drank some moonshine. Everyone was working hard; they were too tired most of the time to do anything else. Dad had to leave Cold Valley because of illness. His lungs were starting to give him trouble.

Work was hard to find when Dad returned to Villeneuve—it was during the depression. Dad worked as a farm laborer in Tessier, Saskatchewan for two years, then for Felix Comeau in St. Albert on the farm, and in the winter, he went to work in the lumber camps. In harvest-time, Dad would stock bundles of grain for 25 cents an acre and would do about 10 acres in a day. In the winter, he would cut blocks of ice from the river to supply the butcher shop (owned by Henry Quintal in Calahoo) and for anyone else who needed some. He sold the ice for five cents a block.

In 1932, on November 22, Dad married Ida Majeau, a distant relative whom he had courted for five years. They rented an apartment above the Villeneuve store for \$8.00 a month. My mother, Ida, would work in the store to help pay for the rent. Working hard and saving their money, they managed to save enough for a down payment on a farm in Calahoo. They bought an all-bush quarter from

Charles Tupin, for which they paid \$1,250. They had \$500 for the down payment and borrowed the rest, at a five percent interest rate, from a government-lending institute for farmers.

With the help of Mike Deniuk, they built a log house by the river. It was 40 feet by 30 feet. Curtains divided the rooms, and the kitchen had a wood and coal stove. A potbelly stove kept everyone nice and warm and comfortable. They got water from the river. When they moved to their farm, my mother had four cows, four horses, and some chickens that she had saved and worked for—as well as her hope chest with household things. They got some pigs and could now make a living on their farm.

My parents started to clear the land so they could grow grain. In 1936, they bought another quarter of land from George Shawn, and paid \$800 for it. It, too, was all bush. When they had about 60 acres cleared, they started to raise registered oats, which they sold for 25 cents a bushel. Now that their herd of cattle and horses was increasing, they were able to sell some.

On December 7, 1937, Oscar Vital was born with the help of midwife Clara Loyer. It was a cold, 35° below zero day. Soon after the birth, Dad went to work in the pulp mill at Port Melon, British Columbia, leaving my mother to

look after the livestock and the farm for the winter. Dad received a paycheck of \$150 a month. Dad would be gone till harvest and left my mother and Oscar at home to take care of things. In the spring, they would plant the grain and Dad would work outside the farm doing road construction with his team of horses.

On July 29, 1941, Anna Marie was born at the University hospital. Alice MacNamara drove my mother to the hospital, and they arrived just in time. (She was going 40 miles an hour over the high level bridge in her new car.) What a ride! That year they built a hip-roofed barn, which was 30 feet by 60 feet and accommodated 12 horses and all the hay in the loft. By this time they had broken some more land. All the clearing of land was done by hand and with their horses.

On November 10, 1943, Leo Luke was born at the University Hospital. That year, my parents bought their first Chevrolet four-door car for \$900. They also purchased an International tractor with steel wheels. Things were getting better and they were happy making a living. Now that they had more machinery, they rented four quarters of land next to their farm. My parents were working hard and spending long hours doing grain and mixed farming. Dad would cut and cord wood and sell it for extra money. They planted a big garden and picked wild berries and also kept a

couple of beehives for honey. They were self-sufficient.

In 1946, they sold their farm in Calahoo to Bruce Sommerville and purchased a two-quarter farm from Ed Borle near Riviere Qui Barre, so the children could be closer to school. Granger School was one mile away, so the children could walk to school. The land was all cultivated and they continued to grain and mix farm. Farming was a family business and everyone had to help with chores. Our family was active in the St. Emmerence Parish and we were involved in the community functions. It was the family picnics, country-dances and social gatherings associated with the church and schools that was our entertainment. After the centralization of the school system, the children went to Camilla School in Riviere Qui Barre.

In 1957, Dad purchased a new Chevrolet station wagon. That summer, they decided to take a holiday; they went to Quebec to visit Dad's family. It had been 35 years since he had seen his family. What a reunion! They took a six-week holiday and left Oscar and Leo to run the farm. Anna went with them.

In 1959, my parents made room in their home for three foster children: James, Lorraine and Karen Champagne. They stayed with them until Oscar took over the family farm. Now, with the children grown up and

away from home (Oscar farming, Anna married and Leo going to the University of Alberta), my parents lived on the farm in a mobile home. Dad got a job with the Municipal District of Sturgeon as a weed inspector and he also continued to help on the farm. In 1967, at age 70, Dad started receiving his old age pension but was not ready to retire. That year he started work with Yoachim Properties Ltd. as a gravel checker. He commuted 60 miles a day from the farm to work.

In 1972, my mother passed away, and Dad came to live with Eric and I and our two sons in St. Albert. Over the years we moved several times, building new sites in the country. He always moved with us. He continued to work for Yoachim Properties Ltd. until 1978. Dad loved the land. He planted and took care of trees with Eric for many years and loved to garden. He always made sure we had lots of potatoes for the winter.

Dad did some travelling over the years. He went to Las Vegas a few times, and Alaska; he took several trips to Quebec to visit family and visited his son Leo and his family in New Brunswick. Dad's last trip was at the age of 90, when he went back east.

Dad took up bowling at age 75 and continued to bowl until age 101 at the St. Albert Bowling League. Bowling was his favorite sport. Dad stayed with us for 19 years

and then decided to move into a seniors lodge in St. Albert in 1992 so he could be closer to amenities. He moved to Northridge Lodge in St. Albert and was very active with the seniors. He drove his car until he was 98 years old. We had a huge 100th birthday party for him, and some of his relatives traveled in from Quebec for the party.

In 1998, Dad moved to the Youville Nursing Home, as he was requiring some nursing care. He is living life one day at a time and is always glad to see us and have visitors. He still plays cards, likes to go to church and is in reasonably good health. He will be 103 years old on January 8th of the new millennium.

Dad's family includes three children and their spouses: Oscar and Angeline Majeau, Eric and Anna Bokenfohr, and Leo and Nora Majeau. He has seven grandchildren: Wayne and his wife Cassi, Neil Bokenfohr, Daniel and his wife Delores, Victor and his wife Leslie Majeau, Michelle and Mark Majeau, and Monique Majeau-Prasad and her husband Len Prasad. His nine great grandchildren are all boys: Reid and Zac Bokenfohr, Terrance, Derek, Andre and Evan Majeau, Carter and Austin Majeau, and Inuk Prasad. Memorable moments for Dad were his wedding day, and the births of each of his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He loves children and is a family man.

Dad was a very hard worker and whatever he did, he did well. He was quick-tempered, but he was a very caring and loving person. When it was work time it was work and no fooling around. He was a strict parent and he was the master of the family. When dad spoke we all listened. My parents were married for 40 years. Playtime was fun, as dad liked to have a good time and enjoyed dancing and doing his little jig at many parties. His favorite recipe (a French Canadian one) is sucre-la-crème, a sauce that is used for dessert and is made with brown sugar and cream. My parents liked to play cards and visit with friends and family. Dad always took time on Sundays to go to church. He was a good provider and knew how to save his money. He never spent foolishly—he was always saving for that rainy day. As he grew older he became a gentle, easy to look after person. He started to enjoy life more because he didn't have to worry about making a living when he only had himself to look after. Dad is a family person and enjoys his three children, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He is an inspiration for all of us and certainly showed us an example of values and faith. His philosophy for long life is eating rolled oat porridge daily, not smoking, drinking alcohol moderately, and hard work.

By daughter Anna Bokenfohr.





Maria Opryshko

born December 23, 1899

*True to her resilient spirit, Maria knew
life must go on, and she continued to live
on her own, working her garden and
visiting both hospital patients and
residents of the local seniors' home.*

Maria Opryshko was born on December 23, 1899 in the village of Wislok, Austria-Hungary, the daughter of Ukrainian parents Andrei and Anastashia Luchka. The family consisted of four brothers and one sister. Maria married John Opryshko on June 1, 1925. Their first-born son, Stefan, died in infancy. A daughter, Anne, was born in February of 1928, and that same spring John set out for Canada, hoping to establish a better life. It took six long years for John to scrape together enough money to bring Maria and Anne to join him. They arrived in Halifax in June of 1934 and after a long train ride arrived in Edmonton.

The next two and a half years were spent working for various farm families in the Mundare/Andrew area. Maria insisted that they find a place of their own; eventually a farm was purchased in 1937, in the settlement of Prosperity, Alberta. By the end of 1943, the family had grown to include two more daughters and two sons: Rose, George, Peter, and Olga. The early years consisted of long, hard hours of work clearing land, building a house and other farm buildings, working in the fields, and looking after the farm animals. Maria persevered with incredible determination to keep things going. Throughout all these years, Sundays and Ukrainian Catholic holy days were strictly observed, since religion was very important to Maria and John.

Maria loved singing, her garden, outdoor work, visiting and helping neighbors and friends. When John and Maria retired in 1971, Maria's only stipulation was that the home they purchased in nearby Boyle, Alberta had to have a yard with room enough for a large garden. After years of relative isolation, a whole new social world opened up for Maria, and whether it was quilt or rug making with the neighbor ladies or her regular visits to hospital patients, Maria kept very busy. John and Maria took great pride in being able to witness the marriage of all their children and to celebrate the births of 17 grandchildren. Maria and John celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1975, after which they fulfilled

their lifelong dream of returning to their birthplace and visiting remaining relatives throughout Poland.

During the 1980s, Maria experienced the grief of losing another child, with the illness and death of her son George in 1987. Maria would then, lose her husband John in December of 1989. True to her resilient spirit, Maria knew life must go on, and she continued to live on her own, working her garden and

visiting both hospital patients and residents of the local seniors' home. In December of 1996, she herself moved into the Wild Rose Villa in Boyle. Until then Maria always maintained she wasn't interested in actually living at a lodge just to "sit around with all those old people."

Since August of 1999, Maria has resided at the Extended Care Home in Athabasca, Alberta. At this time Maria's blessings also include 21 great grandchildren.

A Granddaughter's Tribute to My Baba, Maria Opryshko

Ever since I can remember, my Baba's hair has been white, pure as snow. I know without a doubt that Baba worked hard; I saw the proof in her hands and felt the strength in her arms. All of her grandchildren enjoyed these wonderful bear-hugs and when we looked at her hands, they reminded us that whatever we thought hard work was, Baba had seen and done far more.

Yes, my Baba's hair is white. Some people might think it came from all those years of struggle and determination to make a better life, and the hard work. That may be true, but I think her white hair symbolizes something different.

Here is a woman who, at the end of this century, doesn't know anything about computers, stock markets, or what the latest trends and fads are (or were at any time in the last 100 years). In a world of confusion, where many are measured by checkbook, or by an incredible need to join the breakneck pace to find or have the latest technology, Baba was a woman who simply knew family, songs, friends, prayer and work.

Yes, my Baba's hair is white. I think it shows the real woman, kind and unspoiled...ready when God calls her to take her place with all the other angels. We love you Baba, and we honor you.



Sarah Muriel Patterson

born September 23, 1899

Muriel, and her sister Greta, did the janitor work at the school and their father took care of the furnace. He always wore a heavy mustache, shaved it one morning and chose this day to remove the storm windows. Muriel and her siblings didn't recognize him.

Grades 11 and 12 were not taught in Lavoy, thus Muriel and Greta went to Vegreville for grade 11. They lived at the home of Miss Wright. Miss Wright was one of the first teachers in Vegreville, and her home still stands. While living there, the girls did odd jobs to help pay their rent, such as carrying water and coal and shoveling snow in the winter.

Muriel taught on a permit in 1919 to 1920. In 1920-21, she went to Normal School in Camrose, and afterwards she taught in several country schools, Avon out of Lavoy, Thorncliff and Claysmore out of Vermillion. Here she made lifetime friends and one of her students, now in her nineties, still writes and calls her faithfully. During the times she taught in country schools, Muriel either rode horseback or drove a horse and buggy. She still speaks of the nice little pony she had when boarding with the Blakley's during her time at Thorncliff. When at these country schools, she had the responsibility of being there early to light the stove and have the school warm when the students arrived. The school consisted of one room, with grades one through eight. At

*At one farm home where she boarded
she was asked to leave at Christmas
time, the reason being that she showed
no interest in their single son for whom
they were seeking a wife.*

Muriel was born in Fenlon Falls, Ontario on September 23, 1899. She was the first of four children born to Margaret and Johnston Patterson. In 1909, at the age of nine, she came to Lavoy, Alberta with her parents and her sisters, Greta, Edna and brother Lawson. Muriel had lovely long braids and wore them wrapped around her head. She loved to help her mother with the baking while her two sisters did the cleaning. On Saturdays they baked four or five pies, a cake and cookies. Greta would ask the ingredients of a particular recipe and the reply would be "a pinch of this and that", never giving a straight answer.

one farm home where she boarded she was asked to leave at Christmas time, the reason being that she showed no interest in their single son for whom they were seeking a wife.

In 1927, Muriel accepted a grade two class in Vegreville. She loved the little ones and still talks about how in second grade the children are so eager to learn. Later, she was asked to take a grade six class and taught it for many years. Some of her students still visit her and often remark, “she was the best teacher ever!”

Mr. McRae was principal of Vegreville schools and during the war he brought two English children, George and Joan, over to live in his home. George was assigned to Muriel’s class and declared “No woman can teach me!” but I think he learned differently.

In the late ‘20s, Muriel bought a Chevrolet Coach. She had no driving instruction other than what her salesperson (also her cousin) gave her at the time of the purchase. She drove it back and forth to Lavoy and nearly always spent weekends with her parents. She tells of going to Swift Current, Saskatchewan, with her brother driving and her mother accompanying them. When they ran into heavy rain, they spent most of their time digging the mud out from under the fenders. I don’t think they ever reached their destination.

She sold the car during the war years. It was on blocks and gas was scarce.

Muriel bought a little house on 50th street in the late 1940s and her father lived with her until his death in 1945. She paid \$1,000 for that little house.

In 1955, Muriel’s sister Greta, now a widow, went to Vegreville to live with her. Muriel would never think twice of staying late after school, and it never occurred to her that people would worry. When she didn’t arrive home, Greta on many an evening would go to the neighbors (Esther and George Muntz). George in turn would go to the school and collect Muriel. Muriel joined the Vegreville United Church in 1954 and taught Sunday school for a number of years. At the age of 66, she retired after teaching 46 years.

In 1982, Muriel fractured a hip while visiting her sister Edna in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. In June of the same year she fractured the other hip and has been disabled ever since.

Muriel has been a resident of The Homestead Seniors’ Lodge since 1988 and in September this year will achieve the distinction of being “One Century Old.”

Written by Muriel Patterson.



Margaret Peters

born March 29, 1899

*Maggie used her nursing skills to help
many of her friends and neighbors ...*

Margaret Halbert (known as “Maggie”) was born on March 29, 1899 in Eastfield Shotts, Scotland to parents William and Mary Halbert. She was one of 10 children. Maggie arrived in Alberta around 1914. In 1922, Maggie married William (Bill) Peters, who was a widower with four children: Jessie (Isaacs), Lillian (Walker), Duncan and Arthur. Maggie and Bill added Gordon and Beverley to the clan. In 1967, Maggie suffered the loss of her husband, who was 85 at the time of his death.

Maggie took her nurse’s training at the General Hospital in Calgary, and she nursed in many places. Nordegg was one of her nursing points, and because it was a mining community, there were always injuries and sickness to contend with. In addition to doing a “paid” job, Maggie used her nursing skills to help many of

her friends and neighbors in time of need. During the late 1950s and early 1960s she worked at St. Mary’s Hospital in Trochu as a special nurse to Mrs. Eleanor Cunningham, who passed away in 1962. Caring for others was Maggie’s motto and purpose.

Being a Scottish lass, Maggie could do the Highland Fling and took great delight in performing at the annual Burns Night. She was still able to do this at her 90th birthday celebration. Once, Maggie asked the resident United Church minister for a ride on the back of his Honda Goldwing, but he was the one that chickened out!

Maggie was a bingo fanatic and traveled all over to play. Perhaps the fact that she nearly always won a prize (including cars) was an incentive to “play it again”. Of course, she played numerous cards at a time, with both her eye and hand being quick.

Maggie’s son Gordon remained on the farm and cared for his mother at home for as long as he could manage. It is said that when you give flowers to others, the fragrance remains in your hand. This is certainly true of Maggie as she reaps the reward of flower sharing from her faithful son Gordon as she resides in St. Mary’s. I trust there are a lot of flowers stored up for Gordon as well.





Wilhelmine E. Polei

born September 29, 1900

*I was always game to try anything; I
had my first snowmobile ride when I
was 73 and thought it was great fun!*

I was born Wilhelmine Ernestine Kreutz, at home on the farm (10 miles west of Wetaskiwin), on September 29, 1900. I was known to everyone as “Minnie.” I grew up with six brothers and five other sisters; I was the seventh oldest child in the family. I took a few lessons in grade three, but that was it for my education. From then on, I was self-taught, and I became fluent in writing and reading both German and English. On July 30, 1919, I married Rudolf Polei. We had a farm northwest of Wetaskiwin, where we raised sheep, cattle, chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys and also did grain farming.

My husband Rudolf got ill and died of stomach cancer in the year of 1953. A few years later, I moved into town where I had a wonderful garden, beautiful flowerbeds, raspberry bushes and three crabapple trees. I loved it there. My garden was my life—I’d spend hours working in it!

During the winter months, I would braid rugs, make quilts and quilt covers, and crochet and knit on a continuous basis. When knitting, I never read instructions; instead I would just look at the pattern, go home and make it—I was very blessed with this gift. I drove my car until my ‘70s when my arthritis got to be too bad in my neck for safety. I then walked for groceries, banking and anything else I needed; the exercise did me good.

I was always game to try anything; I had my first snowmobile ride when I was 73 and thought it was great fun! At the age of 86, I became a great grandmother and enjoyed my great grandson, Dean, immensely. When I was 88, I even built him a wooden table to play at. I got the pieces (including the legs, edging and varnish) and put it together myself. He still has the table to this day.

My granddaughter once asked me if I had had a chance, what profession would I have gone into? I stated, “nursing,” as I enjoy helping people and I would have been darn good at it! My family used to say that I should have opened up a restaurant, as I was always being praised for my cooking. I loved cooking and was always trying new recipes. I remained in my own home until I was 92. I then moved to Peace Hills Lodge, where I have enjoyed my stay ever since. The people are great here, and there is something to do all the time if you wish to keep busy.

Some of my pastimes are as follows. I worked along side my husband on our farm for 34 years. I was a cook at a restaurant. I baby-sat for many years for working families. And, of course, I was also a homemaker, until I moved to the lodge. My most favorite hobby was my gardening and my flowers. I also did crocheting, knitting, and quilting and made rugs. I did tailoring, sewing, and making hats

for other people. I have one foster daughter, two foster granddaughters, and one foster great grandson.

Some of my favorite recipes were my fried chicken (my family said it was “to die for”), cinnamon rolls, gingersnaps and sauerkraut soup. I have enjoyed a good healthy life, up until the last year and a half. I’ve had a full life, and I am quite content that I have lived this long, and have seen and experienced so many things over my lifetime.





Janet McNabb Ratcliff

born September 28, 1900

*Once she tried to ride one of her father's
oxen but she got thrown off.*

Janet Gilchrist was born on September 28, 1900 in North Keppel, Ontario. Janet, better known to family and friends as Nettie, moved with her family to a homestead in Saskatchewan in 1911. They came by train and brought their personal affects and livestock with them. The family lived in a leaky tent for a few months through a very wet summer. The lightning was terrible. They planted a garden in the fireguard but the gophers ate it. The coyotes would howl right outside the tent, and the antelope were not afraid so Nettie and her siblings could get quite close to them.

For entertainment in the early years they went to house parties and dances. Neighbors often dropped by to play cards and have coffee. Nettie loved to ride horses. She rode through the winter and the summer. Once she tried to ride one of her father's oxen but she got thrown off. For sports they made their own skis and sleds. When the sloughs froze they played hockey.

In 1936, Nettie married Owen Ratcliff and they had three daughters. They farmed in Saskatchewan. When they were first married, Nettie and Owen's social life consisted mainly of visiting neighbors. Hardly a day went by when they wouldn't visit or someone didn't drop in. The neighbors would help each other to chop or butcher a pig.

Nettie was a Charter Member of the Bissell Homemaker's Club, and a member of the United Church Ladies Aid. Nettie was always a very cheerful person and enjoyed socializing. Her hobbies in her senior years were curling, playing cards, bowling and playing bingo. She also really enjoyed her 11 grandchildren. Nettie is now a resident of the Big Country Long Term Care Centre in Alberta.





Sophie Emelia Shaw

born September 22, 1900

confirmation in Norwegian at the age of 14. Sophie remembered the tornado that lifted the church and relocated it a half mile away!

Sophie remembered the carefree life she knew: picking wild berries with the whole family, and herding cattle all day on the coulee rim with her brothers Alfred and Albert. One time, they encountered a garter snake mound. With no way around, they shut their eyes and ran over it. Sunday was a very special day in Sophie's family. It was a day for rest and for church. They were not allowed to sew or to cut paper on Sunday.

Sophie also remembered walking or running the three miles to school with her brothers, carrying a lunch pail. What a pleasant surprise it would be to find leftover pancakes instead of bread! For discipline, the young male teacher would slap the strap on a desk and threaten the students with the same if they misbehaved. He asked a frightened Sophie on her first day of school, "How many eyes do you have?" "Two." "How many fingers?" "Ten." "How many toes?" She could barely think, but she replied, "I have so many I can't count them."

Sophie remembered as a young girl walking up and across the coulee hills with her father to explore a new town site, Donalda. As they reached the summit, the first-ever train thundered by with the crew waving. This was a

*Sophie also recalls how everyone was
expecting the end of the world when
Haley's Comet appeared in 1910.*

Sophie (Hilde) Shaw was born in Selby, South Dakota on September 22, 1900. In 1902, Sophie's parents, Stener and Gertrude Hilde, along with Sophie, her two brothers and one sister made the trip by wagon and train to a homestead three miles north of Donalda, Alberta. They took with them all of their possessions, including some cattle, horses and machinery. The family grew to include 11 children: five girls and six boys. There were many hardships but also many memorable good times. Stener purchased supplies at the closest town, Bawlf, and staples were available at Elefson's Store. Sophie remembered moving into the new house that her father built in 1908, after the family outgrew the 18-by-18 foot log and sod cabin they originally lived in. Their lives revolved around Ibsen School and Bethany Church, where Sophie celebrated her

moment she never forgot. At the age of eight, Sophie offered to plant the garden for her mother, who was expecting a child. She did plant it, and it all grew! Sophie also recalled how everyone was expecting the end of the world when Haley's Comet appeared in 1910.

There was always music in Sophie's house. Most of the girls played the piano (the square piano in the corner, which had been bought at a sale), and the boys played the fiddle (which Sophie's father had brought them from Selby). At the age of 16, Sophie came to Forestburg to assist her friend Bette Nordvie. Here she met her future husband, a fun-loving, happy-go-lucky Irishman by the name of Allan Shaw. They were married on June 29, 1918. Two daughters, Ruby and Lois were born. They farmed with Allan's parents and then decided to re-establish, moving three times near Gallahad before finally purchasing a farm at Alliance beside Tylers Lake. It was a productive move, and water was abundant. At the new farm, there was good land for crops. Allan and Sophie farmed together through good years and bad. Sophie had an extensive garden with apple trees, raspberries and strawberries. They also raised cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys—200 of them! Folks remember Sophie's generosity. Many a Christmas table was graced with Sophie's turkeys. With Allan's Irish humor, they had a good life.

In 1964, when Allan's health was

failing, they sold the farm and retired to Camrose. Allan passed away in 1976 and Sophie resided at Stoney Creek Lodge in Camrose. Sophie was always interested in sports. As a girl, she remembered running races and winning five cents for ice cream, skating on the frozen slough with her brothers, and playing basketball with the local team. Later, when she retired, she took up floor curling. Sophie was married to Allan Shaw for 55 years and was the proud mother of two, grandmother of eight, and great grandmother of 11. Sophie passed away on October 26, 2000, one month after celebrating her 100th birthday.

By Ruby Keehn and Lois Emberley.

Sophie's Doughnuts

1 1/4 cups white sugar	4 eggs
1 cup milk	1/2 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. melted butter	4 cups flour
3 tsp. baking powder	1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Put sugar in bowl. Add eggs and beat. Add milk, melted butter, flour, baking powder, salt, and nutmeg. Roll to one-quarter inch thick on floured board. Cut and fry in hot lard.

Minnie Strahan

born January 30, 1896



*To her family's knowledge, Minnie never
owned a cookbook, yet she made
excellent pies, cakes, cookies and bread,
as well as the day-to-day meals.*

Minnie was born in Ireland on January 30, 1896, and she moved with her family to the Omaha Nebraska (United States) area when she was about 10 years old. Her family later moved to the Red Willow, Alberta area to take up farming in 1913, when she was about 17 years old. Since then, Minnie has lived in Alberta all her life (except for the short time which she spent in Saskatchewan). Minnie lived on a farm in the Red Willow and Donalda districts until she came to Edmonton in 1989 and moved into the Jubilee Nursing Home. Later on, she was moved to the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital, where she still resides.

During Minnie's years on the farm, she was well known for her large vegetable gardens which fed the family all winter and her canning of fruit, including wild raspberries and saskatoons. To her family's knowledge, Minnie never owned a cookbook, yet she made excellent pies, cakes, cookies and bread, as well as the day-to-day meals. In her early days of raising six children, Minnie had to help stook in the fields at harvest time, and she often had to put the baby in an apple box and tend to it while she worked.

Minnie has always had a great love for animals—dogs and horses were two of her favorites. She loves music, western is her number one choice, and some of her favorite singers are Hank Snow, Don Williams and Wilf Carter. Minnie very seldom drank coffee, but had a great taste for “a good cup of tea,” which she enjoyed several times a day. Before her sight failed her, Minnie did a great deal of reading and would often clip little poems from the paper and tuck them away. She always enjoyed visitors and that has never changed (as one can tell by walking into her room at the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital). Minnie turned 104 years old on January 30, 2000. She is the proud grandmother of five and great grandmother of eight.





Stephen Richard Sturt

born April 17, 1899

*He loves to reminisce and talk about
“the good old days.”*

Stephen Richard Sturt was born in Ninga, Manitoba, near Boissevain on April 17, 1899. In the spring of 1911, when he was 12 years old, he moved with his parents and siblings to the Mannville/Minburn area of Alberta, where they resided for a few years before moving to Athabasca, Alberta. In 1917, the family left Athabasca and moved to Lloydminster for a short time. As a teenager, Steve worked as a farm laborer in Wartime, Saskatchewan.

In 1919, at age 20, Steve returned to the Mannville area to work on a farm. Here, he met Anna Elizabeth Ludwig with whom he married on March 23, 1932. After marrying, they took up farming northwest of Vermilion in the Chatsworth district. Here they raised four children: Eric (Fort St. John, British Colombia), Margaret (Leduc, Alberta), Louise (Calgary, Alberta), and Donald (Nanaimo, British

Colombia). They have 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Steve has been a true farmer. He loved working the soil and tending the livestock. He took great pleasure in seeing the crops be planted, mature and then be harvested. He also loved working with a good team of horses. In 1958, the Sturts left the farm and moved to Vermilion. Here, at age 59, Steve took up carpentry work until he officially retired in 1969 at the age of 70.

All through his life, Steve has closely followed the National Hockey League. He has been an avid Edmonton Oilers fan since the team's inception, and his favorite player of the game has always been Wayne Gretzky. He also liked to watch baseball games on television.

Some of the memorable moments in his life have been the birth of his children, of whom he is very proud, celebrating his 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries, and his 100th birthday party held on April 17, 1999.

Today, he lives a life rich with many happy memories, and he has many friends. Steve has seen many changes in his lifetime. He loves to reminisce and talk about “the good old days.” He has now been married to Anna for 68 years.





Doris Taylor

born September 18, 1900

She remembers walking three miles to school—and for the first few years, the school had only one room.

On September 18, 1900, in Alameda, Northwest Territories (later Saskatchewan), a little girl was born to Mary and William Thistlethwaite. They named this little girl Doris Jackson Thistlethwaite. Doris came from a family of 10 children. She had many wonderful memories of her childhood days and could share some great stories. She remembered walking three miles to school—and for the first few years, the school had only one room.

Another highlight in Doris' memories was when she met the man of her life. She says, "there he stood on the station platform—so good-looking." Robert Franklin Taylor (known as Frank) had come to Saskatchewan from Ontario in 1919 with his father, to help his uncle (who lived near the Thistlethwaites). He was three months older than Doris. That is how the romance started. The Thistlethwaite family and Frank Taylor moved to Prince Albert in 1920, and Doris married Frank on May 7, 1921. (That is quite the story of its own!) Frank and Doris moved 16 miles north of Prince Albert and ran a stopping house for freighters going to Lac La Ronge.

Doris' parents and her brother Harry moved to Marlin, Saskatchewan. Doris and Frank moved to Ontario, which is where Doris' daughters were born. Doris' first daughter, Berna Pauline, was born on Doris' birthday in 1922 in Grandma Mary's and Grandpa William's house. When Berna was three months

old, Frank, Doris and the baby went to London, Ontario to visit Grandma Margaret (Peg) and Grandpa Jim Taylor. One year later they bought an acre of land halfway between London and St. Thomas in Ontario. They built a small house on this land, and a second daughter, Clare, was soon born. Frank worked at carpentry, which was his trade. In 1926, Clare died of diphtheria; and she is buried in Ontario.

In 1927, the Taylors moved back to Saskatchewan, travelling in their 1919 Model T Ford Roadster. They camped along the way, and Doris kept a diary in which she wrote as they traveled. The family reached Alameda in time for harvest and Frank helped Mel Whitfield with the threshing before going on to Glenbush, Saskatchewan for the winter. The Thistlethwaites had moved there earlier and were already established on their land. Doris, Frank and Berna stayed the first winter on Bob Yates' place. The second year, they got the place next door, which was called "Robert's Place." It was here that Grandma and Grandpa Taylor came to stay with them.

Doris and Frank had a son, James William (Bill), in 1929. In 1930, Grandma Peg went back to Ontario, while Grandpa Jim remained in Saskatchewan. As well, in 1931, the Taylors moved onto another piece of land in Daylight District. In 1932, Doris and Frank had a second son, John Robert (Jack), who was

born at Rabbit Lake, Saskatchewan. This was Doris' first and only hospital birth.

In 1933, the Taylors moved to Lockside along with Grandma Taylor, (who had returned from Ontario) and Grandpa Taylor. They all lived in the bush and cut wood that winter for a hauler, who then loaded it onto boxcars at the railway. In the spring, everyone moved to Bell's Camp and stayed there for part of the summer. Doris and Frank then built a small house on the corner of Sam Johnson's property. Shortly after this, Grandma and Grandpa Taylor went back to Ontario for the last time. The Taylors resided at this property until 1938, then moved to Birch Lake onto a homestead.

On June 20, 1942, Berna married Frank Meersman and they moved to Hardesty, Alberta, and later to Alder Flats, where the rest of the Taylor family joined them in 1947. In 1951, Bill married Leona Shetler. Berna and Frank Meersman moved to Valemount, British Colombia so that Frank could work in the lumber camps. The Taylors joined them in Valemount from 1953 to 1956 and then moved to Hinton, Alberta. Also in 1956, Jack married Evelyn Fuchs. In 1958, Bill and Leona Taylor, and Jack and Evelyn Taylor, with their families, also moved to Hinton, Alberta. This is where Doris and Frank resided until Frank died of cancer in 1976 at the Hinton Hospital, six years after he and Doris had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

After Frank passed away, Doris lived for a few years with each of her children and then moved to the Jasper Extended Care Hospital. She then resided at Seton Long Term Care in Jasper, Alberta, where she kept very active. She put up some interesting calendars, and helped in that area. She was fond of sharing memories during reminiscing times, and enjoyed the sing-alongs and worship times. She always made it out for exercises, especially the exercise games. Doris was noted for being a little on the stubborn side, or "set in her ways," but that made it all the better when she did smile. She was really quite a lady!

Doris had nine grandchildren through her daughter Berna: Betty, Berna, Frank, Bella, Beatrice, Floyd, Cheryl (adopted), Fred and Francis. She had six grandchildren through her son Bill: Robert, Roger, Rueben (deceased), Richard, Ricky, and Rita. Doris also had four grandchildren through her son Jack: Bobby, Cathy, Dale, and Denise. Doris' sons, Bill and Jack, still reside in Hinton, Alberta, and her daughter, Berna, still lives in Valemount, British Colombia. Doris also had 34 great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. Doris passed away on September 26, 2000, a week after celebrating her 100th birthday.



A black and white portrait of an elderly woman, Susanna Thiessen, looking directly at the camera. She has short, light-colored hair and is wearing glasses. She is dressed in a dark, high-collared garment and a multi-strand pearl necklace. The background is dark and decorated with strings of small, light-colored lights and some larger, out-of-focus decorative elements.

Susanna Thiessen

born March 21, 1898

*Family history has it that one of these
houses had nearly as much sunlight
coming through the ceiling as through
the windows!*

Susanna Thiessen, our mother, was born to Johann and Agatha Martens on March 21, 1898, in Kronstal Chortitza, South Russia. She was their third child and first daughter. Her mother died one and a half years later; and she had her first stepmother when she was three. At age three and a half, Susanna's second stepmother, who raised her, entered her life. The Martens family was a growing family. In addition to her two older brothers, Susanna was a mother's helper, an older sister and a nursemaid to another five boys and seven girls. Although five of the children didn't live much beyond infancy, by the time she married and had her first child John in 1922, Susanna was

an experienced mother and homemaker herself. Remember, this was the age before Pampers, refrigerators, and Electrolux vacuum cleaners (is there any other kind?).

Susanna's father, the oldest son of "Iron Martens," an iron dealer from Rosental, was a farmer in Kronstal. For many years he was active in community affairs, serving as village mayor and councilor on the Chortitza Council, as well as helping his father to sell iron. Mother remembers he liked to keep the girls busy. He used to set the vesper table for business associates, do the milking, and help the boys with the threshing. Mother still remembers the time she was kicked in the stomach by one of the horses while driving the thresher "merry-go-round." All of this training early in life helped her later. Mother has always been quick to know what needs to be done and how it should be done, and ready to pitch in and do it. Mother's life was typical of those early times in a Mennonite village: the family, the church, the school and the community. Favorite Sunday and holiday pastimes were going for walks with friends and travelling by wagon or sleigh and horses to neighboring villages to visit Grandfather Martens (who loved children) and other relatives. Walking 30 kilometres in a day to visit friends was not uncommon. And we thought power walking started with Adidas!

Behind the Martens' yard was the village lake, where the boys and men would fish in the summer. Mother went there with her father and brothers, and it was here that this seven-year-old was noticed by one Abram Thiessen. But their tranquility was soon shattered by the First World War when Mother was 16. The war and its aftermath, revolution, anarchy and communist oppression, destroyed forever the family and village relationships which had been so peacefully enjoyed.

After the typhus plague (it had been during a bout of typhus when in a state of delirium, Dad had first declared to his mother his interest in our Mother), the two were married on September 25, 1921. Their first son, John, was born the next summer in the midst of talk about immigrating to Canada. Dad's brother left in 1923, but because of Mother's father's reluctance to leave his homeland, Mother and Dad didn't arrive in Canada with all the family until August of 1924. After spending seven years at seven different locations in southern Saskatchewan, Mother, Dad, John (and by this time Abe and Ernie) arrived early on Sunday morning at the Coaldale train station. It was May 3, 1931.

Mother tells the story of how the Thiessens and Andres, their travelling companions, were taken to temporary quarters by Mr. Unger. Mr. Cornies invited them in to

share Sunday morning breakfast. The Thiessens and Andres shared a house for a year, and the friendship they shared has endured these past 67 years. For three years, Dad worked on the King Farm, where the Walls and Dycks were neighbors. This is where Arthur and Henry were born. In the spring of 1935, they moved to the McLean school district and farmed an acreage near the Lepps.

Mother tells us that from the time they left Russia, to when they moved here, they lived in 12 houses and granaries. She wondered whether her lot in life was to clean up after others to make a home for themselves. Family history has it that one of these houses had nearly as much sunlight coming through the ceiling as through the windows! I'm told that is where Abe learned to sing "Lass die liebe Sonne ein" ("Let the Sunshine in"). We don't know what he sang when it rained!

Here on a few rental acres, with a lifetime of hardships behind them, in the midst of the depression, Mother and Dad started again to build their dream. Besides helping in the fields during the hoeing and stooking seasons, and helping with the milking, Mother washed the floors (still no Electrolux), cooked the meals for her six men, mended (we had the best-mended overalls in the Depression), and washed the clothes. (In fact I understand she still mends some of the men's clothes.) She

churned the milk, made butter and prepared vegetables for Dad's vegetables and dairy products route every Saturday. And she baked!

Mother has often wondered how big the pile of buns she has baked during her lifetime would be if the buns were all piled together. We have estimated the pile would be at least the size of her house! She still baked at 90 years of age, especially for her grandchildren. There were always peppermint cookies in the cookie jar. A couple of years ago, we came to Coaldale, but Mother didn't have any pershke to bring along as she usually does. When we got back to Edmonton, our daughter Monica asked if she could have some of Oma's pershke. Upon hearing that we didn't have any, she said, "That's a dumb thing to do—go to Coaldale and not even bring back any of Oma's pershke!"

For several years, when Mother and Dad visited their children, Mother packed her own large kitchen knife in her purse to cut "big fat noodles" as Pam has named them. On one such visit to our house, we thought it would be best to put this 16-inch knife in her suitcase, because even as a senior citizen, she would never get past airport security with that in her purse! John remembers when in 1941, just before Christmas, Mother was in the hospital with blood poisoning and we boys were all worried that she wouldn't get home in time to

do the Christmas baking. He also remembers the time that Dad brought some empty wooden barrels that Mother used for laying in cucumbers. Those were the first orange-flavored pickled cucumbers we had ever had. (The barrel had held orange crush!)

When I think of all the work that Mother had to do during those early years, how she had time to have Heidi and Arnold is beyond me! For many years, we traveled by horse and wagon, summer and winter. Mother still remembers, and I do too, when on a cold Sunday morning, she and we kids would get to ride in Penner's Essex. What a luxury it was when Dad bought a 1929 Chevrolet and we took a family trip to Saskatchewan. One dog, two guardrail posts and a severe bump on the head later, Mother and her family got there. A few years later, in 1945, the family moved to the Crystal Lake school district. Again there were good neighbors of long standing: the Klassens and the Shellenburgs. Modern farm equipment soon allowed Mother more time in the house. But still, during harvest time, she helped with the milking or brought lunch out to the field. Mother's house became more modern. She got a modern kitchen with cabinets, a sink, a refrigerator, an electric cream-separator, and cold running water, as well as a hot water tank, electric lights, a washing machine, and...an Electrolux vacuum cleaner!

Mother has always had a mind of her own. She has never been slow to express her opinion. Heidi thinks that if Mother were a young lady today, she would be a “woman’s libber.” Arnold recalls how when he was a very young boy, an encyclopedia salesman tried to sell Mother a set. When she wasn’t buying, he pointed at Arnold and Heidi and said, “But how will they learn to read?” Mother’s reply was, “They can read the funny papers!” No sale.

All her life, Mother has had a keen sense of curiosity. In 1952, when the St. Mary’s Dam opening was held, Mother went because she wanted to see where the irrigation came from. A few years ago, she inspected much of West Edmonton Mall with John, even if it was on the electric tricycle.

She enjoyed going to Waterton and taking the motor launch to see what was on the American side of the lake, and she still enjoys dress shopping. Some years ago, when Mother was in her mid-’70s, she and Dad, with relatives and friends from Vancouver, flew to Hawaii. One afternoon, the women decided to visit another friend on the Island by bus. As sometimes happens, they stayed later than they had planned. When they were ready to leave, the buses were no longer running. How were they to get back to the hotel? Mother saw some

teenagers hitch-hiking on the street. Not to be outdone, Mother also started to hitchhike. Luckily for her, the car that stopped was a taxi!

After her children were grown, Mother made a multitude of patchwork quilts for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). These quilts were distributed in third world countries. She took special delight in knitting bandages for the Red Cross and sewing layettes for babies as needed. Closer to home, while Dad served as deacon, Mother baked the communion bread for the church.

Her fondest memories include the Christmases she spent with her grandparents in the Ukraine. She also often shares stories about the mischief her seven young children found. In retirement, Mother tended her garden, did canning, attended her Nahferein, made fleckedeicke, baked and looked after her family. She and Dad enjoyed this life for over 20 years. After a visit, she always had something to give to her children or grandchildren: a jar of pickles, some tomatoes, freshly baked pershke or peppermint cookies.

Susanna and Abram Thiessen spent 63 years of marriage together, and Susanna is the proud mother of seven, grandmother of 12, and great grandmother of 13. Her favorite recipe is for Peppermint Cookies. At the age of 90, she was ready to move from her home to Sunny

South Manor. Five years later, she moved to Sunny South Lodge, where she fell and broke her hip, so for over a year she has stayed at Coaldale Health Care Centre.

Mother, you have looked after your family well. We are all grateful to you. We wonder though, whether we will be able to keep up to you if we become 100 years “young.”

Oma's Peppermint Cookies

1 cup butter

3 cups white sugar

2 cups sour cream

1 cup milk

3 eggs, beaten

1/4 cup baking ammonia

30 drops peppermint oil

Cream butter, sugar and eggs. Add cream, milk, and ammonia dissolved in milk. Flour for soft dough. Lastly add peppermint oil. Chill dough. Flour and cut out. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Cookies should be light colored.



Anna Marie Tipman

born July 12, 1900

*She was a valuable asset as secretary of
the Co-op Grocery Store in Stettler when
the store was first established in 1942 ...*

Anna Marie Tipman was born July 12, 1900 in Tallin, Estonia. In the year 2000, she will celebrate her 100th birthday. Her five children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren are planning to help her celebrate this wonderful occasion by travelling from as far as Ottawa, Vancouver, Montana and Washington.

When Anna was two years old, she emigrated from Estonia to the Eckville area of Alberta with her parents August and Millie Posti. She attended elementary schools in the Eckville area and graduated from Victoria High School in Edmonton in 1919. In 1920, Anna graduated from normal school in Calgary and then enjoyed teaching school for six years in the Lesliville and Didsbury area.

On August 12, 1926, she married John M. Tipman in Red Deer and together they made their home on a farm in the Stettler area. The couple's five children benefited from the farm life and tutoring of their mom with their school lessons. Besides being active in school activities she was involved in the local community "Linda Ladies Club". She was a valuable asset as secretary of the Co-op Grocery Store in Stettler when the store was first established in 1942 and served in that capacity for several years. Even though her grandchildren live long distances away she is very special in their lives.

In 1997, Anna moved to Heart Haven lodge, an Assisted Living Facility. Despite being hard of hearing now and the need to use a walker she still participates in most activities such as exercise class, games and listening to music. All of her children think of her as a great lady and a wonderful mom.





Zelma Cathrine Veno

born March 19, 1899

*They suffered years of drought, hardship
and a few years of plenty.*

Zelma Cathrine Brown was born March 19, 1899 in Willow City, North Dakota, United States. The Charles Brown family emigrated from North Dakota in 1906 to settle near Hanna, where Zelma went to school. At age 16 or 17 she worked at a ranch near town, met Cecil Veno and they married January 3, 1917. They homesteaded near Finnegan and raised three sons. They suffered years of drought, hardship and a few years of plenty. They enjoyed visiting, playing cards and dancing in the school or barn loft. Church was held at their home where she played her organ.

The Connorsville School was one and a half miles away. Some children rode many miles, but could stop at Venos' to warm up and enjoy Zelma's fresh homemade bread, buns with brown sugar and cream cooked on top or sugar cookies. Several teachers boarded with them too. She became "Grandma Veno" and baby sitter to all the children. One winter evening they took a team and sleigh to play cards with neighbors. Zelma wrapped baby Ken in a big blanket and held him. Upon arrival, she discovered she had held him "feet up all the way"!

Every train day, once a week, she loaded her can of cream, eggs and butter in the buggy and drove 18 miles to Sunnynook. She could trade eggs or butter for groceries. Sometimes the storekeeper had homemade ice cream—a rare treat!

In 1968, Cecil passed away. Son Albert bought the ranch and Zelma lived there for several years in her little home before she moved to Hanna close to the Seniors Centre. She loved to play crib and bingo, watch TV and read. When her eyesight failed, she moved to the Palliser Nursing Home in Hanna, where she celebrated her 100th birthday last March 19, 1999. She has nine grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Zelma passed away on December 25, 1999.

Zelma Veno's Sugar Cookies

1 cup white sugar

1 cup shortening

1 cup sour milk

1/4 tsp. salt

1 tsp. vanilla

1 tsp. soda

About 3 cups flour

**Sour cream may also be used, in which case reduce or entirely omit the shortening.*

**A teaspoon of spice or 1 1/2 tbsp. Caraway seeds or nuts may be added to recipe*

Roll thin, using as little flour as possible. Cut with 3-inch cutter. Bake in a moderate oven.



Amalia Wirachowsky

born February 25, 1898

*In 1916, I even sewed my own
wedding dress without a pattern
at the cost of \$8.00!*

I turned 102 years old on February 25, 2000. Of German descent, I was born in Russia in 1898 and immigrated to the United States in 1901 with my parents, two brothers and eight sisters. In 1910, my family moved to Saskatchewan, Canada. My schooling consisted of grade two but I graduated with an honorary degree in cooking, sewing and housekeeping. My family could vouch for this by their good health and happiness. In 1916, I even sewed my own wedding dress without a pattern at the cost of \$8.00!

In our home we loved singing, playing instruments and dancing. Many evenings were spent enjoying this wonderful entertainment. Our faith and trust in God helped us weather many a storm. Living in southern Saskatchewan in the 1930s was indeed a challenge. In 1938, we moved to Alberta, a province that provided us with a good living and we spent many happy years in this great province. We settled close to the North Saskatchewan River that supplied us with water for good gardens and water for our animals. The river also provided entertainment for the whole family: swimming, fishing, skating and long leisurely walks along its shores. The spring ice break-up was an exciting event for us.

Our emblem, the wild rose, has always been a delight to me and its presence along the roadside brings joy to my heart. Our beautiful sunrises and sunsets and the northern lights are a sight to behold. I am happy that my days were filled with hard work in building our first home with sod blocks, milking cows, stooking the crops and planting the gardens. We traveled by foot, buggy, wagon and finally by car. All of this has inspired me to appreciate God's many gifts over the century. Our Church and School kept us close to God and to our neighbors. God bless all our leaders and fellow Albertans in our wonderful country Canada.



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!



I It is time for action . . .
Right now, enemy bombers
look about to obliterate
what ever exists. They
wait for your home . . . your
business to be blasted to
destruction . . . By your part
to build and defend both these
threatening enemies by
lending more and more
money to supply our fight-
ing men with more ships . . .
more guns and more planes.

42

World Wars

Buy
**WAR SAVINGS
CERTIFICATES**
Regularly!

THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA

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DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!



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wait for your home . . . your
business to be blasted to
destruction . . . do your part
to hold and drive back these
threatening monsters by
lending more and more
money to supply our fight-
ing men with more ships . . .
more guns and more planes.

Buy
**WAR SAVINGS
CERTIFICATES**
Regularly!

Space donated by **THE BREWING INDUSTRY OF ALBERTA**

Hendrina Jocoba Bjordal

born October 18, 1898

*She routinely visited a military hospital
and supplied patients with reading
materials and spent time playing
card games.*

Hendrina was born on October 18, 1898 in Rotterdam, Holland. She arrived in Alberta in 1910. She was married from 1920 to 1964, when her husband passed away.

Hendrina was a very active person during the war years. She routinely visited a military hospital and supplied patients with reading materials and spent time playing card

games. Hendrina's interest in decorating wedding cakes started with her oldest daughter's wedding in 1944. This was the beginning of decorating other families' cakes as well. She was often fortunate to get orders for cakes from Picadary Pastries, when they were too busy to fill them. Hendrina was one person who loved to keep busy. When her fingers were no longer able to decorate cakes, she turned to painting. She found great relaxation in putting the paintbrush to objects and paper. Time carried on and she finally took up residency at a care centre, where they managed to get Hendrina painting again. She made four beautiful paintings, which are hanging on the walls of her daughter's, granddaughter's and great grandchildren homes.

Hendrina's fondest memories were when she was a little girl in Holland. Her father used to bring her gifts from all over the world. He was a chief engineer on the big ocean liners. Hendrina was still able to push herself in her wheelchair all over the care centre. Among her most favorite things were oranges, candy and sugar. She is a mother to three children, nine grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Hendrina turned 101 years old October 18, 1999. Hendrina passed away on June 14, 2000





Ruth Elizabeth Brewer

born January 19, 1898

*The family witnessed the bombing and
destruction of the area around them.*

Ruth Elizabeth Brewer was born in Liverpool, England on January 19, 1898. She was the second oldest of four children, three girls and one boy. They were quite poor. When Elizabeth was seven years old, her father left the family and went to live in South America. Elizabeth's mother struggled to bring up four children alone. It was very difficult and at times Elizabeth worked in a workhouse in order to help make ends meet.

Eight years later, Elizabeth's father returned to Liverpool and took his wife and children (except the eldest daughter who was married) to live in Australia. Elizabeth was 15, her brother was 11 and her sister was eight years old. Elizabeth worked as a housemaid when she was 16.

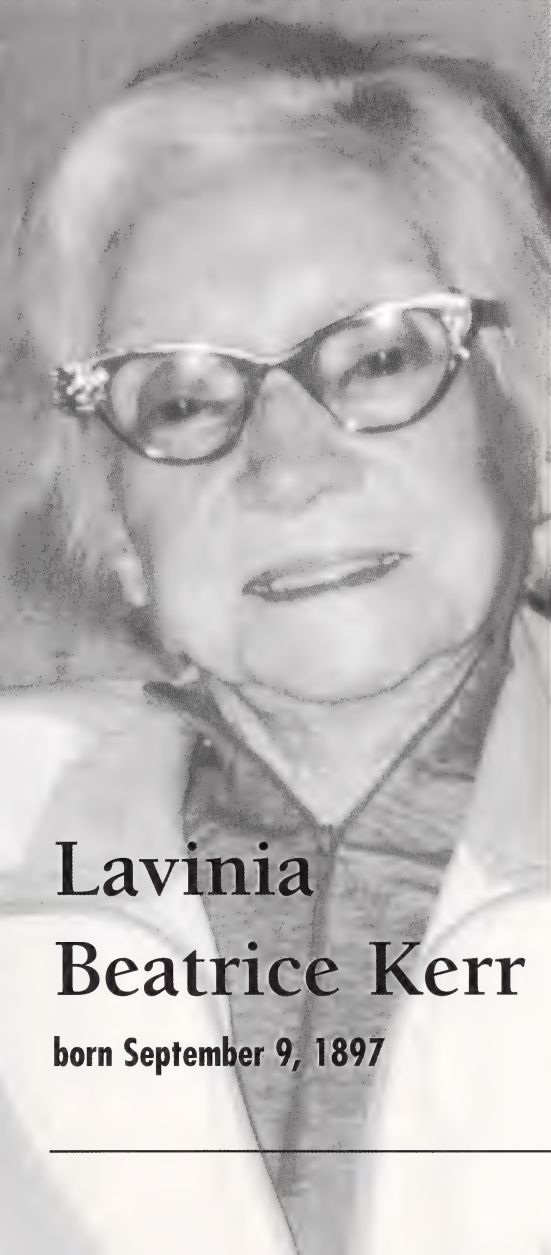
When Elizabeth was 20 years old she met and married her first husband. They had a baby boy. Soon after Elizabeth's husband died. A few years later, Elizabeth met and married an English merchant navy man. After Elizabeth's first daughter, Joan, was born in Sydney, Australia she decided to move the family back to Liverpool, England. Once back in Liverpool, Elizabeth gave birth to another baby girl.

Elizabeth eventually moved to the outskirts of London, where the family lived during the Second World War. The family witnessed the bombing and destruction of the area around them. Elizabeth's daughter, Joan, made parts for bombers during the Second World War and while Elizabeth's son was in the R.N.R. he was shot down and severely injured. After the war, Elizabeth's son and his family moved to Australia.

Elizabeth's daughter, Joan, married a Canadian and became a war bride. Joan moved to Canada in 1946. Elizabeth's other daughter and her husband moved to the United States. Elizabeth's husband died right after the war and once again she was alone. Later on, Elizabeth married again and moved to Cornwall, a beautiful part of England. Elizabeth and her new husband lived in a 300-year-old cottage. Elizabeth visited Australia twice more to see her son. She eventually became a widow and immigrated to Alberta, Canada in 1980 to live near her oldest daughter Joan. Elizabeth became a Canadian citizen in 1984. Elizabeth was the proud grandmother of eight, and a great grandmother of several more. She turned 102 on January 19, 2000. Elizabeth Brewer passed away on April 11, 2000.

*Submitted by Joan St. George, daughter of
Elizabeth Brewer.*





Lavinia Beatrice Kerr

born September 9, 1897

*One of her fondest memories includes
the end of the Second World War and
the safe return of her son ...*

Lavinia Beatrice Kerr was born in Shalloway, Newfoundland on September 9, 1897. She married in December 1919, and arrived in Alberta in June of 1920. Out of 46 years of marriage, she has one son, three grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. One of her fondest memories includes the end of the Second World War and the safe return of her son, Lloyd, who served as a fighter pilot in the RAF.

Lavinia always loved golf, and she was still walking the golf course until her late '80s. Lavinia also loved to play bridge until she lost her hearing. Her family describes Lavinia as "unflappable".



Stanley MacQuire Law

born August 20, 1900

*Stanley served in both World Wars and
is also a life member of the Royal
Canadian Legion.*

Stanley MacQuire was born August 20, 1900 in Clifton Reynes, Buckinghamshire, England. He immigrated to Canada in 1924 and worked as a gardener at the Indian Head Experimental Farm. He married Min and had two children. He then moved to Calgary in 1984 to be closer to his son and family.

Stan is a life member of the Horticultural Society of Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Stanley served in both World

Wars and is also a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion. Stanley is a member and supporter of the Anglican Church. He enjoyed curling, card playing, gardening and travelling as hobbies.

He is now a resident at Bethany Care in Cochrane. He is always a gentleman and has a good sense of humor. He has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.





Eleanor Lovette

born July 22, 1899

*When told she would have to live in a
shack with no heating or electricity, she
changed her mind and they moved to
Edmonton ...*

Born on July 22, 1899 in Islington, London, England, Eleanor Lovette celebrated her 100th birthday on July 22, 1999, at St. Patrick's Church, Edmonton. Reverend Father Frank Stempfle, the Pastor of St. Patrick's, presented her with a framed picture of the Pope imparting his Papal blessing and an authentic copy of her birth certificate. She also received congratulatory messages from the Queen, the Governor General and the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Alberta and many other celebrities, as well as greeting cards from relatives and friends.

Eleanor is mentally very alert and well informed. She walks without a cane, rarely uses her eyeglasses and says she has no aches, pains or arthritis, but says her hearing is not too good. She claims she used to walk 11 blocks daily, which may account for her present good health. She gets some housekeeping help, but does her own cooking. Her daughters help with an occasional casserole. They say she is a "great eater," but has no favorite recipe.

During the war, and for some years after her marriage, Eleanor worked as a temporary Civil Servant in the Department of Labor, Ministry of Munitions in London, England. She met her late husband, Frank Richardson Lovette, a Canadian soldier, at a "get together" with friends in London. They were married in 1918, and moved to Winnipeg in 1920, hoping to farm. When told she would have to live in a shack with no heating or electricity, she changed her mind and they moved to Edmonton where she has lived since, in the home her husband built in 1924. Eleanor has six children, four girls and two boys. She also has 19 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. She is a remarkable lady and we wish her many more years of health and happiness.

Submitted by Olga Gnanasiamany.





Cyril Edward Martin

born February 18, 1900

*At age 15, Cyril enlisted in the
Canadian Expeditionary Forces, having
lied about his age.*

Cyril Martin was born on February 18, 1900. Cyril's family (father, Edward "Ted" Martin, wife Kate, and children Cyril, Nora, Vera and Gladys) immigrated to Canada in 1907, hoping for better job opportunities for Ted, who was a bricklayer.

At age 15, Cyril enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, having lied about his age. He celebrated his 16th birthday in France. He became a member of the Seventh Canadian Railway Troops. At the Battle of YPRES and at Passchendaele, Belgium, in 1917, Cyril's job was to deliver food, ammunition and medical supplies to the troops in the trenches, who had to suffer through endless mud, poison gas, rats and lice.

In 1919, Cyril enrolled at the Toronto Bible College. He graduated in 1922, the same year he married his wife. He later attended St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon and in 1929 was ordained as a minister of the United Church of Canada. In 1940, Cyril again enlisted in the Canadian Army. He became a chaplain and saw action in Italy. He was with the 17th Field Regiment (RCA).

Very memorable moments for Cyril were when he was blessed by Pope Pius XII in Rome and when he was presented with the Medal of the Legion of Honor from France in 1999.

Fondest memories for Cyril have been the many family celebrations he has participated in. Cyril is a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion and also a life member of the Masons. He has built two telescopes. He was also an amateur radio operator. Cyril loved travelling and visited cities in Europe and Israel. He also visited Russia in 1989 and the Amazon in 1990.

He and his wife Jessie had one son and adopted six other children. There are 17 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.





Agnes M. Peebles

born July 18, 1899

*During the Great Depression and start
of the First World War, Agnes was forced
to leave school at the age of 14 to join
the service*

Agnes Peebles was born on July 18, 1899 in Windyates, Fife, Scotland, to James and Stewart Webster. Agnes had five brothers and two sisters. She was the eldest girl, and so, following Scottish custom, was named after her mother's eldest sister.

Her father owned a butcher shop and delivered meat all around town. He contracted a deadly disease called Anthrax from working with meat and was taken to the Edinburgh Hospital. At that time there was no cure for the disease, but a doctor had just developed a new procedure and James Webster was the first patient to undergo this treatment! He survived the treatment and it is documented in a medical journal.

During the Great Depression and start of the First World War, Agnes was forced to leave school at the age of 14 to join the service to work as a scullery maid. On October 4, 1921, Agnes married John Peebles in Thornton, Scotland. They had their first son William (Billy) in 1922, and another son James was born in 1924. In 1929, Jim and John Webster and John Peebles immigrated to Canada and made Lethbridge, Alberta their place of residence. In 1930, Agnes (along with her sons) and Jean Coventry (Webster) came to Canada to join their husbands. John Peebles became employed at the Lethbridge jail as a guard. (Agnes' brother John Webster had come to Canada for only a short time and then he

returned to Scotland. He soon met his wife there and started a family in Scotland.) John Peebles continued to work at the Lethbridge jail throughout the Second World War.

John and Agnes joined the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1930. Agnes loved the church and was involved in all aspects of it. She met many dear friends there and touched many peoples' lives over the years. Agnes holds these memories close to her heart. Their sons, William (Billy) and James joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 and 1942. It was with great regret that Agnes and John received the telegram from the service on June 23, 1942 informing them that their son William Peebles' plane had gone down over the North Sea. James continued serving in the famous Canadian-American Special Force Night Raiders (also known as the Black Devils) until the end of the Second World War. James returned home safely in 1945.

In the early 1940s, Mr. Palmer approached John and Agnes to come and work at the Experimental Farm in Lethbridge. John worked as a utility handyman and Agnes as a cook in the dining room. Agnes cooked the meals for all the workers on the farm. She was very proud of her work and enjoyed meeting everybody who came to visit the farm. John and Agnes lived in a boarding house at the Experimental Farm. In 1952, John Peebles suddenly passed away from a heart attack, to

Agnes' great regret. Agnes was asked to continue on as a cook in the dining room and moved to a small house at the Experimental Farm. She continued her work as a cook until they closed the dining room in the mid 1950s.

Agnes then moved to a duplex in Lethbridge on 4th Avenue and 13th Street. Mrs. Spoulus was her good friend and neighbor that lived in the other half of the duplex. She continued to live there until the late 1960s, then moved one block over to an apartment on 5th Avenue. Agnes loved to walk and did all her errands and visiting by walking. She always said that God had blessed her with a good pair of legs!

In 1951, Agnes joined the Grand Chapter of Alberta, Order of the Eastern Star. In 1962, she assumed the position of Worthy Matron of Maple Leaf Chapter No. 7. Agnes loved being involved with the Eastern Star and met many interesting people there and a lifetime's worth of friends. Agnes started playing bridge weekly with a faithful group of friends: Mary Webster, Mrs. Spoulus, Mrs. Nickus, Mrs. Hamilton and Harriet Lindsey.

She also had a love for travel; she went to the Maritimes and Hawaii with Harriet Lindsey, then again with Bearl Tiffin. She also visited the Holyland (Israel and Jerusalem) with Mary Webster and Kathren Lindsey. Agnes visited her homeland of Scotland numerous

times; the last time was in the mid-to-late 1970s. In her voyages overseas, Agnes traveled on both the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth II.

Family was always a priority to Agnes; she loved to spend time with her son Jim, his wife Gladys, and their eight children. (She now has 19 great grandchildren as well.) Agnes was very fond of her grandchildren and always spent Christmas and special occasions with them. Agnes was famous for her homemade shortbread and made it year after year for her family and friends.

In 1987, Agnes moved to the Heritage Lodge in Lethbridge and then to Extendicare, Lethbridge in 1997. She continues to live at Extendicare and enjoys visits from her family and her many friends.



Isabella McDiarmaid Stockwell

born March 8, 1900

*I, along with many other people at home
spent countless hours making up food
parcels to ship overseas, as well as a
tremendous amount of knitting.*

I was born on March 8, 1900, at 2:00 a.m. in a blizzard, in Poplar Lake, Northwest Territories (which later became Alberta). My father helped survey the land that became the Canadian Pacific Railway. The McDiarmaid Family arrived on the first train from Calgary to Edmonton in 1886.

My greatest sorrow was the loss of three brothers during the First World War. Volunteering during the First World War for the

Red Cross was very important to our Canadian troops. I, along with many other people at home, spent countless hours making up food parcels to ship overseas, as well as a tremendous amount of knitting.

In 1927, I was married, and the happiest day of my life was the day my son Duncan was born. I have always had a great love for music, and spent many happy hours playing the piano. It was always a great thrill to entertain people. Sometime I would play with a band or with anyone who came along with an instrument or wanted to sing a song.

My most memorable, scary time was the prairie fire from the Sturgeon District that cut a six-mile swath from east to west, destroying everything in its path (with the exception of the homes). This happened in 1904. My favorite sports were running and playing football. My favorite recipe is Lemon Sponge Pie. My hobbies are playing the piano, painting pictures and sewing. Plus, I've always had a great love for animals.

Alberta is the best province in Canada to live in. I've had a very good life here. I now have three grandchildren and four great grandchildren





Helen Corrie Taggart

born August 12, 1898

*My contribution to the War Effort was
to make huge rice puddings daily to be
taken to the Red Cross Hospital ...*

I was born in Swindon, Wiltshire, England, on August 12, 1898. When the First World War broke out, I learnt telegraphy at the Head Post Office in Swindon. My contribution to the War Effort was to make huge rice puddings daily to be taken to the Red Cross Hospital where my mother volunteered. In January 1917, I was employed at Paddington Station, London, as a telegraphist. Those were exciting times! London was full of soldiers, sailors and airmen from all over the Commonwealth Empire.

My parents, John and Nellie Kingsmith, were in Canada. In October 1919, my younger brother Jack and I sailed from England on the "Tunisian" and docked at Montreal. We

continued by train, then by horse and buggy for the last 20 miles, and joined my parents in Queenstown, Alberta. The prairie landscape and rural life was so very different from life in the city of London. Among the sociable young people I met was my future husband Will. We were married on March 29, 1920.

My housekeeping, cooking and farm life was a learning experience, to say the least. For one thing, I learned you don't serve pumpkin as a dessert straight from the can. Among my frightening experiences was learning to ride a spunky little buckskin named "Little Bill," who ran away with me.

We raised a family of five during the Depression. Currently, I have 13 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. I have enjoyed traveling and was privileged to enjoy visits back to England in 1967 and again in 1977. We ultimately retired to High River in 1968. We celebrated our 61st anniversary in March 1981, and my husband died in July. I moved into the Medicine Tree Manor on October 1, 1983, where I still make my home.

Submitted by Helen Corrie Taggart.





War Brides

*My contribution to the War Effort was
to make huge rice puddings daily to be
taken to the Red Cross Hospital ...*

I was born in Swindon, Wiltshire, England, on August 12, 1898. When the First World War broke out, I learnt telegraphy at the Head Post Office in Swindon. My contribution to the War Effort was to make huge rice puddings daily to be taken to the Red Cross Hospital where my mother volunteered. In January 1917, I was employed at Paddington

War Brides
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continued by train, then for the last 20 miles, and Queenstown, Alberta. The and rural life was so very the city of London. Among people I met was my future were married on March 29

My housekeeping life was a learning experience. For one thing, I learned a pumpkin as a dessert strategy. Among my frightening to ride a spunky little horse "Bill," who ran away with

We raised a family through the Depression. Currently, I have 25 great grandchildren and 10 grandchildren. I have enjoyed being privileged to enjoy visits from my grandchildren in 1967 and again in 1977 to High River in 1968. We celebrated our anniversary in March 1981. I died in July. I moved into the Manor on October 1, 1981, my home.

Submitted by ...





Margaret Evaline Edwards

born March 17, 1899

dinners in her home and helped with other community activities for these military men.

Margaret was a member of the Hospital Guild, Women's Institute, C.G.I.T. and the Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday school. She was a very generous lady, who gave unselfishly to the poor through personal efforts and community organizations helping with bazaars, bake sales and raffles.

Her most memorable moments were learning to drive a Model T Ford, flying in an open cockpit plane (never flew again) and bringing her fourth child into the world by herself.

She loved the outdoors; she was a crack shot at hunting partridge, (she rarely missed), and she enjoyed fishing, camping out, horseback riding, skating, and watching hockey and baseball games. Her favorite pastimes were playing cards (Stop the Bus), crocheting and sewing, baking and reading. Everybody loved her rice puddings, potato salads and lemon butter.

Margaret now resides in a nursing home. She still has a great sense of humor, can spin many a yarn adding a little more each time. She is greatly admired by her four children, seven grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.



Margaret was a very patriotic lady; ...

Margaret Edwards was born on March 17, 1899, in Battle River, Alberta, the fourth eldest in a family of nine. At the age of six months, she moved to Wetaskiwin where she grew up and completed her schooling. She moved to Edmonton, married Edward Edwards and raised their family in Edmonton, St. Paul and Rocky Mountain House. She was married to him for 52 years, and as well as having had six children, she now has seven grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren.

Margaret was a very patriotic lady; she married a veteran of the First World War. Her three brothers also served in the war. She had three daughters who enlisted in the RCAF during the Second World War, along with two brothers and many nephews. She was President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion, and Branch No. 8 for many years attaining her life membership. She entertained members of the R.A.F. stationed at Penhold with Sunday

A black and white portrait of an elderly woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair. She is smiling and looking slightly to the left of the camera. She is wearing a dark-colored, collared jacket or sweater over a light-colored top, and a single-strand pearl necklace. The background is out of focus, showing vertical lines on the left and a textured surface on the right.

Elizabeth Ford

born December 3, 1900

*... she organized a group called "The
Busy Seventeen". Making quilts was the
order of the day, ...*

Elizabeth Ford was born December 3, 1900, in St. John's, Newfoundland. She was the eldest child of Carl and Julia Ueberrhein, former owners of the Medicine Hat Greenhouses. As a result, she learned much about flowers and their beauty. She took her early education in Medicine Hat, followed by a business education course at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Following the early death of her mother, Elizabeth returned to work for her Dad at the greenhouse. Subsequently, she met and married her husband, Reginald, who had arrived from England after the First World War. When the Second World War began, they opened their home to many of the young

servicemen who were posted here for flight training at 34 S.F.T.S.

As a result of the war effort, Beth (as she was known to many) became involved with the Canadian Red Cross, about 1941/42. Through this period many, many hours of labor were put into knitting socks, gloves and sweaters for the servicemen overseas. About this time, she organized a group called "The Busy Seventeen". Making quilts was the order of the day, for many afternoons and evenings.

Once the war was over, the Busy Seventeen ladies disbanded, but she remained with Red Cross, serving for more than 25 years on the executive, supervising fund drives,

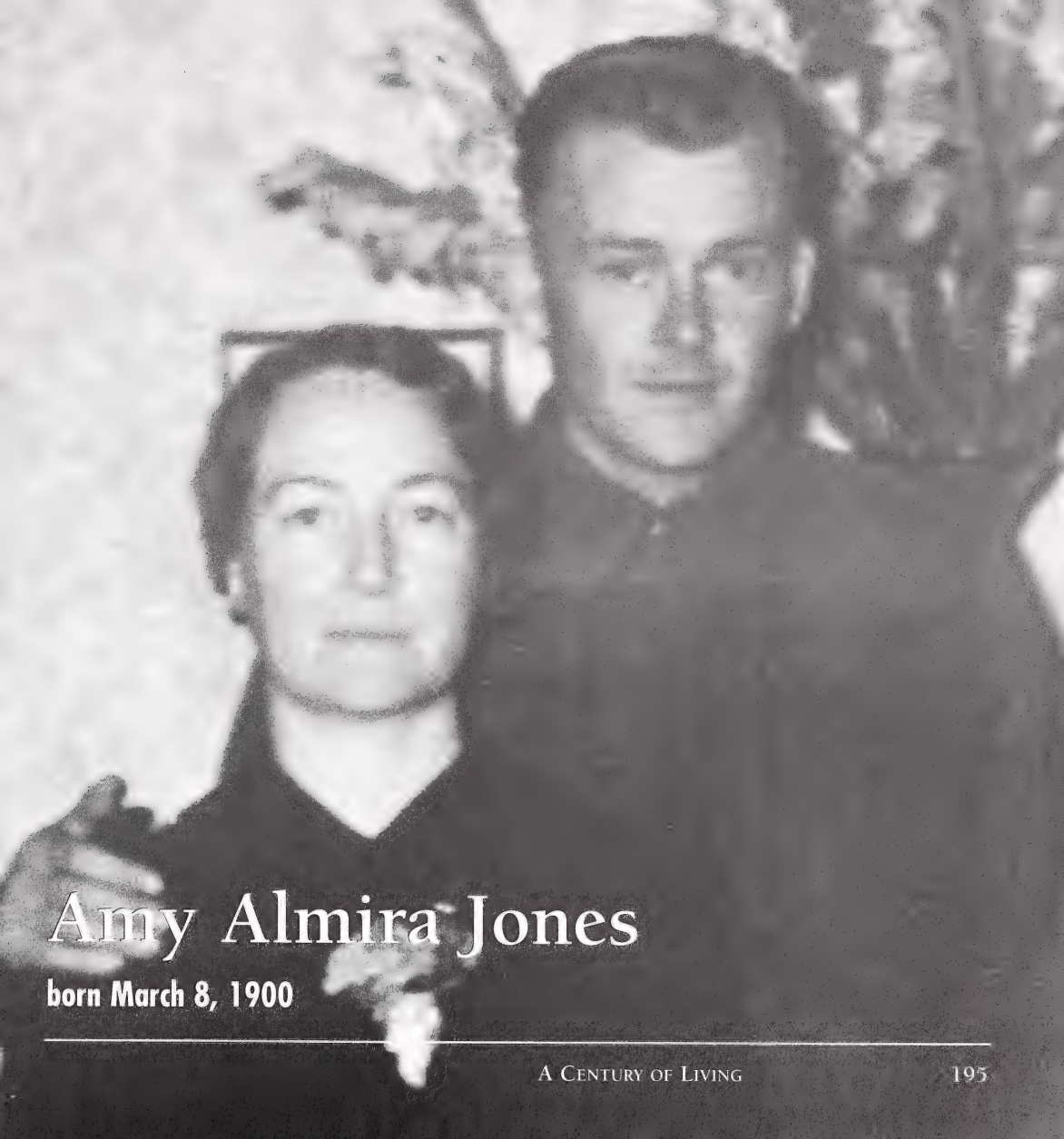
helping acquire food and bedding for those in need, lending out hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches etc. When the Blood Donor Clinics were held, you could always count on Beth to give a hand. She herself donated regularly, for many, many years.

At a ceremony held March 1971, the Medicine Hat Quota Club honored Elizabeth as a Lady of Merit for her many years of service to the community, particularly in the field of the Red Cross. At that time, her active involvement in Auxiliary Hospital Aid Service was noted. One of her loved interests was to contribute faithfully to the Baby Showcase, where new mothers could obtain beautifully knitted baby outfits.

Over the years, she was a faithful member of St. Barnabas Anglican Church. She loved taking her turn at arranging flowers for the Altar Guild, and meeting with the women at the various groups. She was a devoted member of the Eastern Star, having transferred from the Memorial Chapter, into the Murray Chapter in 1977. In March 1991, the Chapter bestowed on her a life membership.

Elizabeth spent her free time knitting or reading. During the evening hours, her love of walking took her across the Hat. Her ready smile was a greeting to those along the way. She enjoyed her son, her four grandchildren, her three great grandchildren, and life in general. Her most frequently voiced desire was that she 'live to be 100'. May it be so!





Amy Almira Jones

born March 8, 1900

*Amy met Alan Jones and was married
on August 20th, 1940.*

Amy Almira Jones was born in Douglas, Manitoba on March 8, 1900. Her parents were Susan (Reid) and Daniel Broad. She lived on a farm with her parents and two older brothers, Percy and Loran. Horseback riding and helping her mother pick raspberries, which they sold in town (Brandon), were some of her favorite pastimes. The family later moved to Brandon, Manitoba where Amy went to school. Sadly, Amy lost both brothers to the First World War.

Amy went on to business school and later worked in the bank. When her father passed away, she cared for her mother until she passed away. Amy met Alan Jones and was married on August 20th, 1940. Alan was already in the army and was then stationed in Montreal although he continued to work overseas. Amy worked at the YMCA in Montreal until her husband returned. Alan came home very ill and suffering from Shell

Shock. Amy did her best to care for him and kept him from staying in a Veteran's Hospital. They moved to Alberta around 1948 and Alan worked at the oil fields in Devon where they lived in a trailer.

Edmonton was their final move and they enjoyed their home and their pet cats. Amy loved to garden and canned everything she produced. Alan worked as a security guard at several nursing homes. They loved to travel around Alberta on their holidays camping and exploring. Amy has a lifetime membership with the IOOF the Naomi Rebecca Lodge in Brandon, Manitoba. She was quite active in this lodge and helped out all she could.

Amy's husband Alan died in 1987 and she was able, with some help, to stay in her own home till she was 97. She now resides at the Somerset Extendicare.

Phyllis Louise Quinney

born June 25, 1900

*... known to all by her nickname “Tiny,”
would prove a true pioneer and more
than equal to the test.*

Phyllis Quinney (nee Bunkle) was born on June 25, 1900 in Walsall, England. She spent her childhood at Seaford, in Sussex, where her father was a chef at one of the large resort hotels fronting on the English Channel. In the later years of the Great War, she met Captain William T. Quinney, a Canadian army officer, whom she married in 1919. Phyllis immigrated to Canada with William, leaving behind loving parents and her adoring younger brother, with whom she would keep up a life-long correspondence.

Upon arrival in Bill's hometown of Ottawa, they stayed with his large and welcoming family. Plans were made to follow his dream, hatched in the muddy, horror-filled trenches of France, of seeking their fortune together in the newly opened Peace River country of northern Alberta. Bill, who was a printer by trade, set off with a like-minded friend, to find suitable farmland. Phyllis followed by train in the summer of 1920, with a newborn daughter in her arms. They initially settled in the Judah area, on the east hills of Peace River. Later that year, Bill and Phyllis purchased land in the Kerndale district, on the southwest corner of Lac Cardinal.

Phyllis' parents came out from England around 1927 to see for themselves her grand adventure in the Canadian wilds. At the conclusion of their visit, her father reportedly declared, “Your mother and I think you and Bill

are absolutely mad!” Nevertheless, they chose to stay on and would farm there for the next 45 years. Phyllis, a diminutive woman known to all by her nickname “Tiny,” would prove a true pioneer and more than equal to the test. She would bear Bill three more sons and raise them through the Depression years. A woman of great spirit and fierce determination, resourceful, practical, and blessed with unfailing good humor, she endured the deprivations of a harsh remote country to build a full and successful life for her family.

Phyllis was a well-known and respected person in the district, and built many life-long friendships with other pioneering women. She faithfully kept a daily journal that provides a fascinating and vibrant record of those early years. Phyllis’ letters to friends and family are legendary, with every margin and corner of the pages filled with her charming, wistful writing that is still a delight to read. Phyllis was an avid reader and continues to read today.

In 1965, Bill and Phyllis retired from the farm to Duncan on Vancouver Island, following the tragic loss of their home by fire. True to form, Phyllis adapted well to her new circumstances and she and Bill enjoyed many wonderful years together until his death at 93 in 1984. Phyllis returned to Peace River in 1989 to be closer to her family, sharing a busy home and countless cups of tea with her daughter, until moving into the Heritage Towers seniors’ complex in 1997. Phyllis now resides in the Sutherland Nursing Home in Peace River, Alberta.

Now in her 100th year, Phyllis remains vital and continues to make the most of every day. She is one of the last English “War Brides,” and counts three surviving children, 10 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. The Kerndale farm remains in the family.





Mary Jane Yates

born November 2, 1899

*In 1922, Mary was a witness to one of
the most infamous events in Crowsnest
Pass history.*

Mary Yates was born Mary Jane Kay on November 2nd, 1899 in St. Helens, Lancashire, England. She was the youngest of six living children. Her mother died when she was an infant and her father, who had remarried, died when she was four, leaving her to be raised by her stepmother. In her teens, Mary left home to work in an ammunition factory.

She met her future husband, James Yates, through her sister Nellie. Nellie was married to Jim's brother Peter. Jim, of Michel, British Columbia, was a sapper in the Canadian army and was invalid from the front following an appendectomy. They were married on September 18th, 1918 and at the war end,

Mary came to Canada as a war bride. They lived first in Michel then moved to Coleman where they lived in a mining company house. Later they purchased two houses in the ghost town of Hosmer, moved the lumber to Coleman and built their new house on the then 5th Street.

In 1922, Mary was a witness to one of the most infamous events in Crowsnest Pass history. She was going to visit Jim in the hospital. As she passed the home of Constable Lawson, which was adjacent to the hospital, rumrunner Emilio Picariello and his companion Florence Lassandra drove up to accost the policeman. Pic's son had been shot and wounded during a "run". Thinking that Steve had been killed; Pic shot Lawson to death. Mary was called to testify in a Calgary court.

Mary was active in the Rebecca Lodge. She was noted for her hooked rugs made from strips cut from woolen garments and these rugs graced her own home and many others in the Pass. When Jim died in 1968, Mary remained in her own home until her late eighties, then moved into York Creek Lodge. Following a second hip fracture, she became a resident of the long-term Care unit of Crowsnest Pass Hospital.

Mary has one daughter, Ella Merryfield of Seattle, Washington. She has one grandson, Bill, living in Duncan, British Columbia. He is married to Jennifer Power of Victoria and has two children, Michaela, age six and Marcus, age three.





Dirty '30s

Mary came to Canada as a war bride. They lived first in Michel then moved to Coleman where they lived in a mining company house. Later they purchased two houses in the ghost town of Hosmer, moved the lumber to Coleman and built their new house on the then 5th Street.

In 1922, Mary was a witness to one of the most infamous events in Crowsnest Pass history. She was going to visit Jim in the hospital. As she passed the home of Constable Lawson, which was adjacent to the hospital,

Florence Cassandra drove up to accost the wounded during a rain. Knowing that Steve had been killed, the shoe Cassandra's death. Mary was called to testify in a Calgary court.

Mary was active in the Keweenaw Lodge. She was noted for her hooked hats made from strips cut from woolen garments and a long fringe graced her own home and many other homes in Pass. After moving into York Creek Lodge following a second hip fracture, she became a resident of the long-term Care unit of Livingstone Trust Hospital.

Mary has one daughter, Jennifer, who lives in Seattle, Washington. She has a son, Bill, living in Duncan, British Columbia. She is married to Jennifer Powe and has two children, Michaela and James, who are three.





Beryl J. Clegg

born September 8, 1899

In 1930, the Clegg family moved to the

Peace country permanently and began

to farm grain in the Gage area.

Nowadays, it isn't uncommon to see people living to be 100. However, for them to reach 100 and still be as sharp and witty as Beryl Clegg is a true accomplishment. Meet Beryl Clegg, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend and neighbor extraordinaire! She was born in Oakpoint, Manitoba on September 8, 1899 to Charles and Lizzetta de Simencourt. She had two sisters and two brothers. When she was younger, Beryl learned how to sing, play the piano and create various types of handwork knitting and crocheting. Beryl's home life was happy and she enjoyed the company of her family and local friends. Beryl's parents were from London, although her father's parents were French.

When she was but a teenager, her beau, William Clegg, was sent off in the First World War to work in the Navy. Beryl's focus was set upon helping those overseas, and she began knitting mittens and toques, socks, gloves and sweaters and sent them to local boys who were involved in the war in Europe and Asia. She also wrote letters and worked hard participating in Blankets for Britain through the Red Cross Society.

Beryl married William Clegg on March 7, 1923 in Manitoba. They began their own farm and after three hard years on their family spot, they moved and began their own dairy farm on the outskirts of town. Beryl worked hard milking the cows and feeding the other animals they may have had on the farm at the time.

In 1928, William went to Fairview, Alberta to work on the railway and left his family in Manitoba. Beryl and her first three children joined him after several months and stayed until he was finally finished in October. The family returned to Manitoba. Beryl remembers seeing the first train come into Fairview. She also remembers the town of Waterhole relocating its buildings to the Fairview sight.

In 1930, the Clegg family moved to the Peace country permanently and began to farm grain in the Gage area. Beryl was lonesome for

her family and friends in Manitoba and in 1937, they visited Manitoba in their brand new automobile. When they arrived in Manitoba, Beryl realized how long she'd been away and how much the townspeople and even the town itself had changed. She hardly knew anyone anymore, and it was then that she began to think of their Gage area farm as home.

Back on the farm, the Clegg family was enormously busy. Besides farming grain, they had cows, pigs and chickens, but no dairy cows. This meant no more milking for Beryl which she thought was excellent! Beryl still had a number of hungry hired hands and a growing family so cooking and gardening took the place of milking. The Cleggs owned one of the first thrashing machines. Beryl worked along with the thrashing crew. Her job was operating the cook truck, feeding and cleaning up after all meals as they traveled from farm to farm as a thrashing crew.

Although they had a large family, hired hands, animals and several grain fields to look after, Beryl still remained active in the Fairview community. She played the organ at the St. Helen's church. She remembers the church being brought into Fairview, "Everyone just got their horses, and those that had tractors got their tractors. Not many people had tractors." Beryl worked at the local auction mart and thrift shop, both fundraisers for St. Helen's church.

During the Dirty '30s as some call them, or otherwise known as the great depression, Beryl felt extremely blessed. While other people were starving to death, the Clegg's always managed to have a good garden and enough food on the table. When the news of the Second World War was broadcasted all over the world, Beryl and William began working hard again. Beryl began making a variety of knitted things and baked and sent food overseas to the Canadian soldiers at war. At one point, William was the District Commander and Zone Commander and Beryl was the president at the Royal Canadian Ladies Legion in Fairview, Alberta.

In 1957, Beryl and William moved off the farm and into town. In 1982, Beryl was widowed. Beryl now resides in the Fairview Nursing Home.

Over the years, Beryl has noticed many changes. She says that everything is different, from the children to the weather. She says that children are much more difficult to cope with nowadays, and that people have changed with the use of new technology.

Beryl had seven children, three girls and four boys. Audrey, Josephine, Iris, Doug, Billy, Glen and Lloyd. Josephine died at the age of 16 and Lloyd died an infant. Beryl has 22 grandchildren, 54 great grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren. Beryl remains a

wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great-great grandmother and friend to many; and at 100 years old, is still as sharp as ever. She has tiring days, but still manages well. She has many stories to tell of her younger days, and has many pictures of family and friends that she eagerly shows her visitors.

Orange Date Cake

<i>1/2 c. butter</i>	<i>1 tsp. soda</i>
<i>1 c. brown sugar</i>	<i>1/2 tsp. cloves</i>
<i>2 eggs</i>	<i>1/2 tsp. cinnamon</i>
<i>1 c. walnuts</i>	<i>2 oranges</i>
<i>1/2 c. white sugar</i>	<i>1 1/2 to 2 cups flour</i>
<i>1 c. hot water</i>	<i>1/8 tsp. salt</i>
<i>dates</i>	

Stone dates and cut in small pieces. Pour hot water over them and let cool. Cream butter, sugar, add well-beaten eggs, salt and sifted flour, soda, and spices. Add walnuts, date mixture and flavor with grated rind of Oranges. Cook in 350° oven for 1/2 hour. When cooked, mix juice of two oranges with 1/2 cup of white sugar, and pour over.



Nick Fedyna

born December 5, 1899

Nick enjoyed farming and often talks

about the hardships of the '30s.

Nick Fedyna was born in the Village of Tuchla in Poland on December 5, 1899. He immigrated to Canada in January 1925. Nick married Sophie (Iwanik) in March 1931. They had two children, five grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. After homesteading in Gilwood, near High Prairie, Nick farmed from 1931 until 1969. Nick later moved to Edson, Alberta, and presently resides there.

Nick enjoyed farming and often talks about the hardships of the '30s. He was a veteran of the First World War. Nick returned to Poland on two occasions to visit relatives there.

Life in Canada has been wonderful, full of memories and great times.





Florida Marie Louise Ouellette

born March 11, 1900

"I don't write letters any more. I just use the phone. I would never go back to the good old days."

Florida Ouellette, who celebrated her 100th birthday on March 11, says the good old days were not so good. "It was awful to live in those days. We were all broke and had no money, but we had to eat and we got along somehow. I only had three children, but some had 15 or 16."

Florida was born in Disraeli, Quebec on March 11, 1900. She moved to the United States with her parents when she was seven. "The missionaries talked about the West, how you could buy a farm for \$10. They didn't tell us about the rocky soil or how tough it was. When dad heard it, he had come to Flat Lake."

Florida was 11 when her dad, Charles St. Onge, moved to Flat Lake. "They had no school, no church. Dad always said as long as you knew how to count to 100 and could sign your name, it was enough."

Florida married Leo Ouellette, and moved to a farm at Turin, where they farmed for 10 years, and then to Onion Lake for 10 years, where Leo taught school. While working at the school, Leo suffered a stroke that left one side paralyzed. "He had a stroke when he was 47, and was sick for 44 years and couldn't work. He died in '91."

Unable to stay at the school any longer, the Ouellettes moved to Bonnyville in 1941 with their three young children. The oldest son, Denis, left for the Second World War and was killed in 1944. Her daughter, Jeanne, found work doing housekeeping for \$10 per month, and the youngest son, Armond, went to work at Brosseau's Store for \$50 per month, Florida says. "I took in washing and kept boarders. I was so scared of those men. They came to work in oil drilling. I was scared they were going to hurt me, but they didn't know Leo was paralyzed. I was so glad he was there. They were scared of him."

Florida says her biggest regret was that she did not have a home of her own. "I never had a home of my own. Times were tough, so I

had to find a low rent place, and put up with someone else's stuff. You can't even paint. You pay rent, and pay rent. I didn't even have room for a garden, and had to buy everything, feeding all those men. I would advise anyone to buy a home of their own."

To Florida, the biggest change she saw was the coming of the oil exploration. "When they started drilling for oil, that made a big change. Everybody was living better, working, more money. I kept boarders for 15 years, boys who were working on the rigs. I got \$35 for room and board, and washing in those days." Florida remembers Bonnyville being small then. "It was very small, a small bakery, a meat shop, and Brosseau's Store. There was only one street. We had no water and no toilets. We had to buy wood. Then we got the gas and that was good, but you had to pay for the gas. We had so much hard times. We could only use electricity for lights. Now you only press a button and everything works, and couples still don't get along. I had a sick husband, and I never thought of leaving him. I think people are spoiled."

Florida has been a resident of Bonnylodge for almost 10 years now and enjoys the facility. "I want to stay here. If I keep on like I am, I'll live here until I'm 105," she smirks. "It's easy now. I get a check from the

government. I pay rent, and I get good meals. If you are sick, they take good care of you. I like it here."

Florida plays bingo three times a week and enjoys going to church. "We have Mass here once a week. I think once a week is enough." She enjoys going outside, walking on the sidewalk in the spring, and going for car rides with her son. "I love to go car riding when I have a chance. Armond or my grandchildren take me to the restaurant. They are good to me, but they have their own families to look after, too."

Florida was sick for a while and had to use the walker, but she is walking well on her own again. "I didn't think I was going to live that long, 99. I only feel like 80 or 85." She says both of her parents lived until they were 92. "I had five brothers and five sisters, and they are all gone now except me. I'm too tough, I guess," she laughs. "My sister lived to 105 and she smoked all her life. When I visited her on her 98 birthday, she had a smoke in her hand."

Although Florida still writes, she doesn't write letters anymore. "I don't write letters any more. I just use the phone. I would never go back to the good old days." Ouellette has been a widow for nine years.

"If I would give young people some good advice, I would tell them to stay single. I've been single for nine years now, and I still like it." She has three children, 12 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

Her favorite recipe:

Mrs. Florida Ouellette's Quick Black Forest

*1 cake mix with pudding in it
3 eggs (beaten)
1 Tbsp. almond flavoring
1 can of cherry pie filling
1 cup chocolate chips*

Mix all the ingredients together well with a spoon. Turn into a greased 9"x13" pan. Bake at 350° oven for 45 minutes. Cool and glaze. Serve as is or with whipped cream and cherries.

Glaze:

*1/2 cup chocolate chips
1 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. milk
1/2 cup icing sugar*

Heat and mix the first three ingredients over medium heat. Stir in the icing sugar. Spread over cooled cake.





Edna Grace Parmiter

born December 24, 1900

*... in the 1914 May Day Festival, Edna
was chosen as first princess to the May
Queen... what a thrill for a
13 year old girl!*

Edna Grace Alexandra was born at home on December 24, 1900 in New Westminster, British Columbia, the ninth child of 10. In 1888, her parents had come by train from Ontario. Her father was a Royal City policeman. One happy childhood memory was when in the 1914 May Day Festival, Edna was chosen as first princess to the May Queen... what a thrill for a 13 year old girl! Edna began to work at an early age as a sales clerk in a local store. She helped her family and lived in her parents' home until she was married.

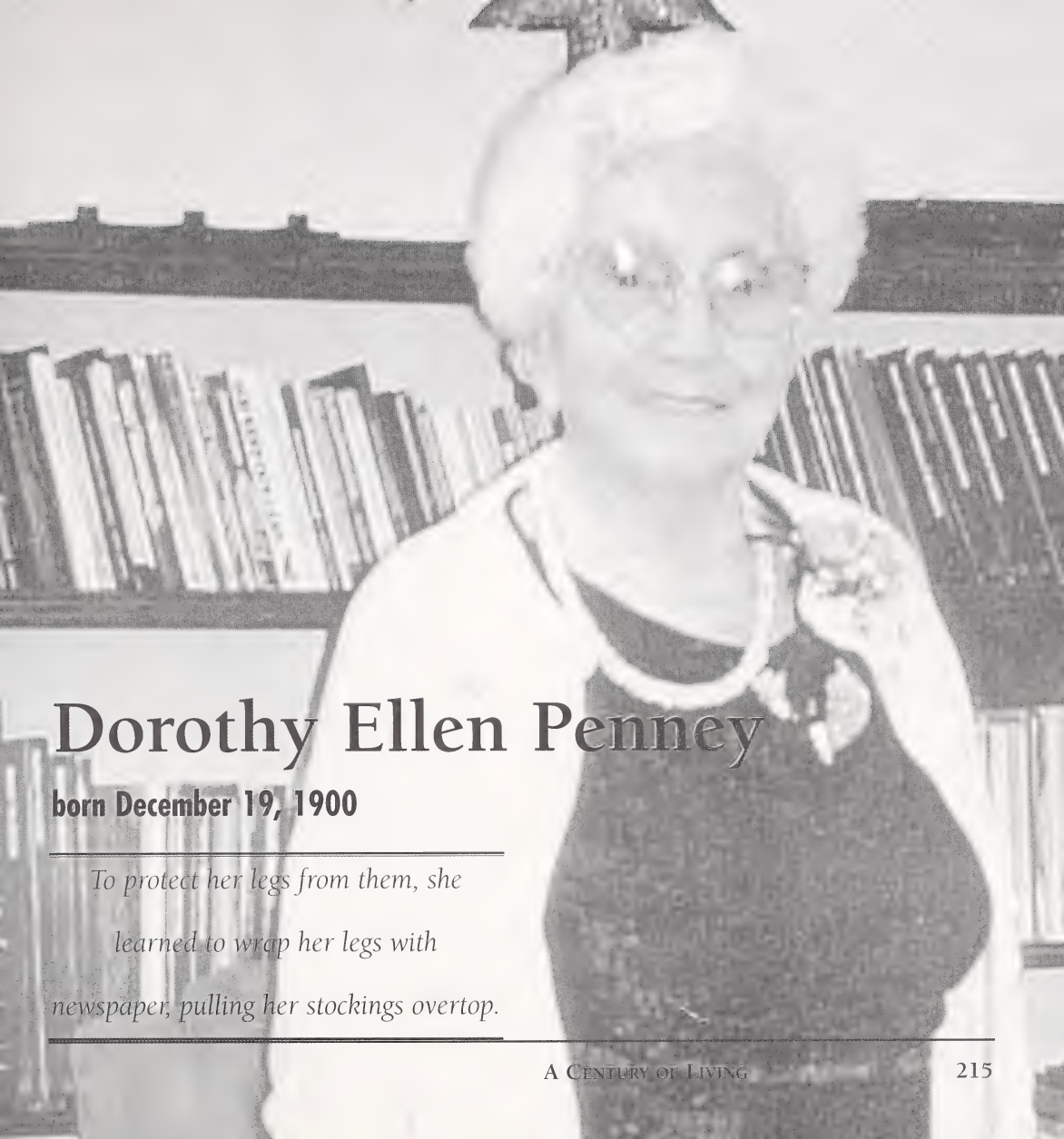
In October 1929, Edna married Cecil Parmiter, a friend of her older brother. Both men had been in the First World War air force.

Edna looked forward to her new home in Britannia Beach, site of a huge copper-zinc mine, where her husband worked as a machinist. Unfortunately, after only 20 months of marriage, her young husband became ill and died. Edna was left with a three-month-old baby daughter to raise. This was during the Great Depression, and Edna found support from her family. She and her little daughter made their home with her closest sister and her sister's husband in Vancouver.

Edna trained as a hairdresser and remembered one summer season in 1936 working in the Chateau Lake Louise in the beauty parlor. She loved the majestic Rockies and was happy to return to them years later. Money and jobs were always scarce. Edna found work in retail sales in the Hudson's Bay Company. She worked there during the Second World War. For the war effort, she trained with the St. John Ambulance to help in the nursing program when needed. Edna continued in retail sales until she was 73 years old. In August 1973 she moved to Calgary to be close to her daughter and three granddaughters, the loves of her life. She was also the proud great grandmother of four: two boys and two girls.

Edna passed away on June 10, 2000. She would have turned 100 on December 24, 2000.





Dorothy Ellen Penney

born December 19, 1900

*To protect her legs from them, she
learned to wrap her legs with
newspaper, pulling her stockings overtop.*

Dorothy Ellen Penney was born in a sod shack in Topeka, Nebraska, United States on December 19, 1900. Her mother died when she was only five years old. Her father, Noah Rorick, took her to live with a cousin, at which time she lost all contact with her seven siblings. She recalls doing tedious work such as stripping feathers to make down for quilts and pillows. She also remembers her cousin cutting grain with a cradle or scythe, as she followed behind, making sheaves and tying them with stalks of grain.

In 1911, Dorothy moved with her cousins near Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada. Life was very hard in this new land! It was hard work to clear two and a half acres of land and to build a 12x24-foot house to qualify for ownership of the land. Bears and timber wolves roamed the heavy bush. Flies and mosquitoes thrived in the muskeg land. To protect her legs from them, she learned to wrap her legs with newspaper, pulling her stockings overtop. She often carried a smudge pail of burning green grass, the smoke of which kept the mosquitoes away from animals and humans. The settlers made "corduroy roads" by placing logs side by side over the muskeg. When the first layer sank, another layer was added.

In 1916, during the First World War, the farmers in the west were short of help, so Dorothy answered the call to replace the young

men who were overseas. Ernest Penney also came from Quebec and stayed to work. Ernest and Dorothy married and started farming from scratch. The sod was broken for the first crops and garden with Ernest holding the handles of the plough and Dorothy driving the horses. One of the hardest things to cope with was water shortage; hard-earned money was spent drilling "dry holes".

One of Dorothy's greatest fears was that sickness or accident might befall her eight children. Under the instruction of the country doctor, she nursed Ernie through double pneumonia, applying mustard plasters every four hours, day and night. She assisted the doctor on many home deliveries; often caring for the other young children until the mother was able.

Dorothy helped shear the sheep raised on the farm, and then washed, dyed, and spun the wool, which was to be knit into needed clothing and beautiful Northland sweaters. Her ability as a self-taught seamstress, sewing all her children's clothing, became a pleasant hobby in her retirement years, when she would make beautiful crocheted table cloths and ceramic gifts.

Dorothy moved to Alberta in 1963 (approximately). She lived in her own apartment until she was 97 years old, after which she moved to Forest Grove Care Center, where she now participates in a variety of programs which are offered. Dorothy has enjoyed many hobbies over her lifetime; her daughters and granddaughters display the tablecloths she has crocheted and also the tatted articles she has made. Her favorite hobby was making quilts. She treasures the ribbons won when she exhibited them at the Calgary Stampede Exhibition!

Dorothy fondly recalls how excited her family was when the Langbank Station agent would call to say that the 100-pound gunnysacks of frozen fish from Lake Winnipeg had arrived. Fresh fish in summer were unheard of in her early life!

Dorothy often said "Happiness is in the head," and certainly she proved that her happiness wasn't dependent on the comforts she owned. Her approach to life was to share what she had, including her self-taught nursing knowledge. Dorothy was married to Ernest for 48 years, and is the proud mother of eight, grandmother of 26, great grandmother of 66, and great-great grandmother of 52. Dorothy located all but the baby of her brothers and sisters, although the search for one sister lasted 50 years! Growing a huge garden and beautiful

plants and flowers were her pleasure. Her life has been filled with friends, both young and old, and beautiful memories cheer her in these last years in Forest Grove Care Center.

This was not a favorite recipe but it served a need on occasions. She called it Mock Fish:

Mock Fish

1. *Prepare oatmeal porridge, slightly thicker than usual.*
2. *Pour into a shallow greased pan; let set until cold and firm.*
3. *Cut into fish serving sized pieces; roll in flour or breadcrumbs.*
4. *Fry both sides to golden brown in butter, bacon fat, or oil.*
5. *Salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot. Imagine it's fish and enjoy!*



Submitted by Irene Farrell.

A black and white portrait of an elderly woman, Alma May VanInderstine. She has short, curly, light-colored hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a light-colored jacket or blouse. The background is dark and out of focus.

Alma May VanInderstine

born April 17, 1896

*She continued to knit for The Red Cross
well into her nineties.*

Alma May Cardno was born April 17, 1896 in Guelph, Ontario. Alma May resided in the family home in Seaforth, Ontario until the age of five when she traveled west with her parents who pioneered in southern Manitoba. After the First World War, the family moved to Darlingford, Manitoba where she resided until September of 1956.

Alma May married Wm. Vernon VanInderstine in September 1923. They made their home in Winnipeg where they raised two daughters, Margaret Bernice and Verna Mae. She was widowed in 1948 and continued to live in Winnipeg until her youngest daughter, Verna Mae, was married in 1956. That year, she moved to Alberta to take up a permanent residence in Calgary with her two aunts who had established a home on 14th Avenue, S.W. in the early 1900s.

Alma May is the granddaughter of a Scottish immigrant, Alexander Cardno who came from the village of Ellon in Aberdeenshire to settle in Seaforth, Ontario in the mid 1800s. His son, Alexander Ducat, married Sarah Jane Noble and they had three children, Alma, Baden and Frederick. As a young woman in Darlingford, she became an accomplished pianist and church organist. During the First World War, she and her brother Baden, traveled on the railroad to various communities to entertain and raise funds for the War effort. In the Second World War, her home was open to the young military men away from home who were in training to go overseas. Many a Sunday dinner was shared with soldier, sailor and airman in those days and, as before, the piano was played and songs were sung. Those troubled times were also a time of fondest memory for many that enjoyed the hospitality and camaraderie. She was a good cook; great pie maker and no one will ever forget those graham flour muffins served warm with melting butter. They would make your tummy happy.

Her mother, Sarah Jane Cardno, was a tireless worker for the Red Cross in both World Wars and Alma worked as well. She continued her association with the Canadian Red Cross most of her life and received a Citation for her years of Service in a ceremony in Calgary when she was in her mid-'80s. She continued to knit for the Red Cross well into her '90s. She was a

member of the Canadian Daughters for many years acting as a pianist for their gatherings and meetings.

We cannot remember her without saying that she was the most loyal and avid fan of the Calgary Flames hockey team ever! Perhaps one of her fondest memories is double fold... when they won the Stanley cup... and on her 100th birthday when she received a letter from the team saying they would try very hard for her to bring the cup home to Calgary again some day.

That 100th Birthday party was quite an affair held at her present residence in Cedarsvilla Extendicare. Many children of the friends of her youth came to honor her and the Alberta Rose Growers Association sent her 100 long stemmed roses to grace the day. Grandchildren, great grandchildren, and we, her children, were very touched by the loving attention she received.

She remains in fairly good health considering her venerable age and continues to reside at Cedarsvilla where she has the honor of being their oldest resident.

In concluding this little memoir of her life we would like to share this little poem that we had published for her 100th Birthday Announcement...

“Let Me Grow Lovely”

*Let me grow lovely, growing old -
So many fine things to do;
Laces and ivory, and gold,
And silks need not be new;*

*And there is healing in old trees,
old streets a glamour hold;
Why may not I, as well as these?
Grow lovely, growing old.*



EDMONTON VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

1905



Volunteers

member of the Canadian Daughters for many years acting as a pianist for their gatherings and meetings.

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present She remains in fairly good health considering her venerable age and continues to reside at Cedarsvilla where she has the honor of being their oldest resident.

In a conversation with her daughter, I felt she was a very loving and caring person that was a pleasure to be around. I am very proud of her.

"Let Me Know (Love)"

Let me know how you are getting on
Let me know how you are getting on
Let me know how you are getting on
Let me know how you are getting on

Let me know how you are getting on
Let me know how you are getting on
Let me know how you are getting on
Let me know how you are getting on

EDMONTON VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

1905



F. Brown



G. Adams



J. Smith



K. Jackson



M. Campbell



M. Jackson



G. McCullough



G. Adams



J. Brown



M. Thompson



H. M. Hartman



G. F. Brown



J. Mann



R. Reed



C. Brown



R. Goodhue



J. B. Wilson



C. Tension



R. Brown



G. Brown



F. C. L.



P. R. G.



J. Brown



M. Brown



W. Brown



M. Brown



L. Brown



J. Brown



T. Brown



J. Brown



M. Brown



J. Brown



A. Brown



B. Brown



J. Brown



M. Brown



A. Brown



J. Brown



A. Brown



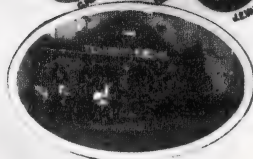
E. Brown

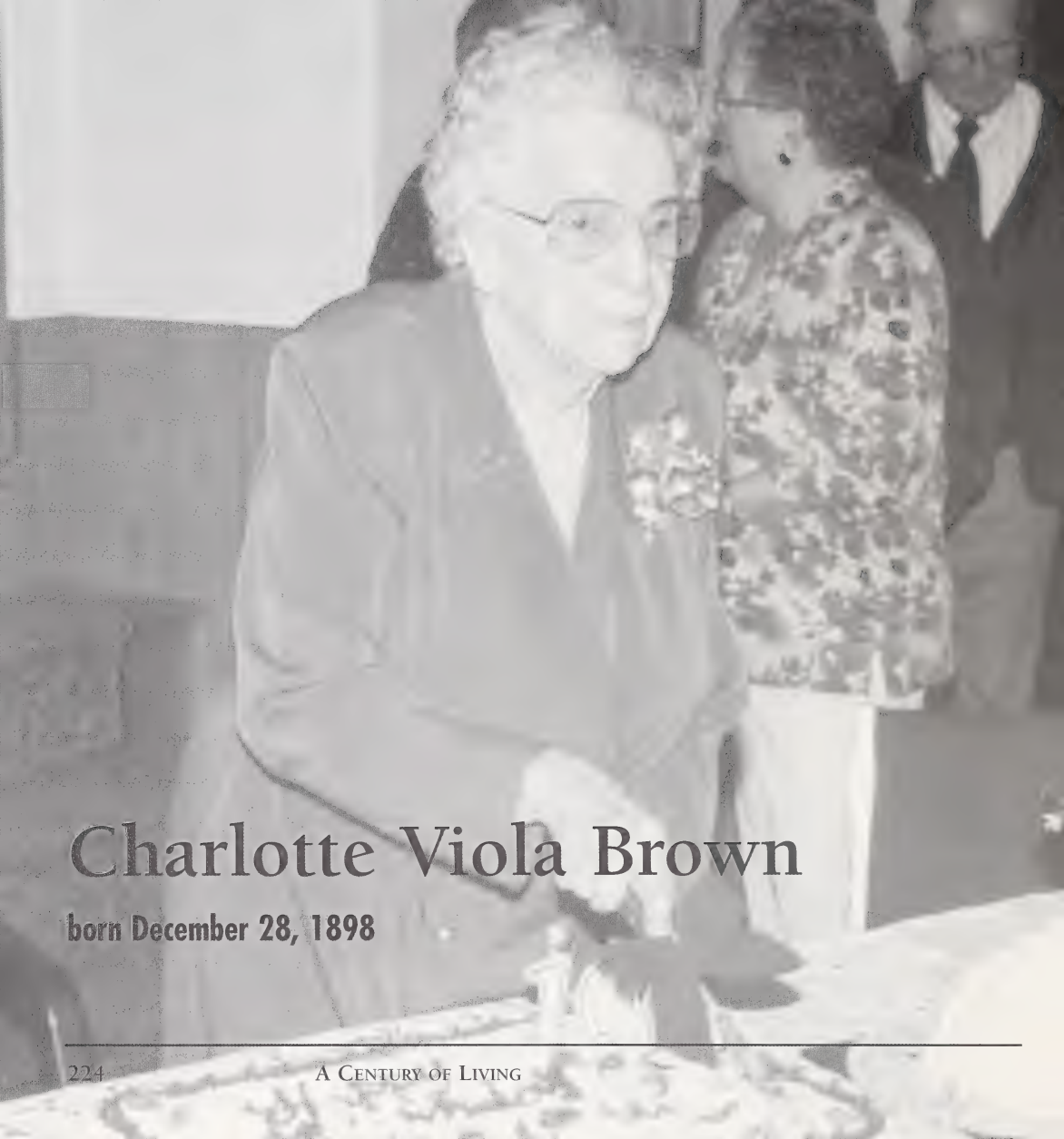


M. Brown



J. Brown





Charlotte Viola Brown

born December 28, 1898

Church women's group. Taking food to chicken suppers and to other district events.

When the curling rink opened at Brownfield, Lottie and her sister Sadie Lindmark spent long hours serving soup, hamburgers and pie to the curlers.

When Lottie's husband passed away, she remained on the farm with her son Archie until he and Sheila were married. Then Lottie moved into Coronation and continued working in the United Church women's group, volunteering at the Coronation Library, sewing for the Hospital Auxiliary, and helping at the Coronation fair. She crocheted many afghans and grew lovely houseplants winning ribbons many years at the fair. She and several friends met once a week to play Canasta and visit.

Lottie has moved into an assisted living complex and is enjoying visiting with many of her former neighbors and friends. Her keen memory and sense of humor are an amazement to everyone. Her 100th Birthday was a great event for her, she is so proud of having five generations in our family.

I have included her recipe for Christmas pudding, which was passed down from Lottie's mother, and we still use the same recipe.

She helped her husband as all pioneer women do, baking bread, milking cows, raising chickens, and driving horses during haying and harvesting.

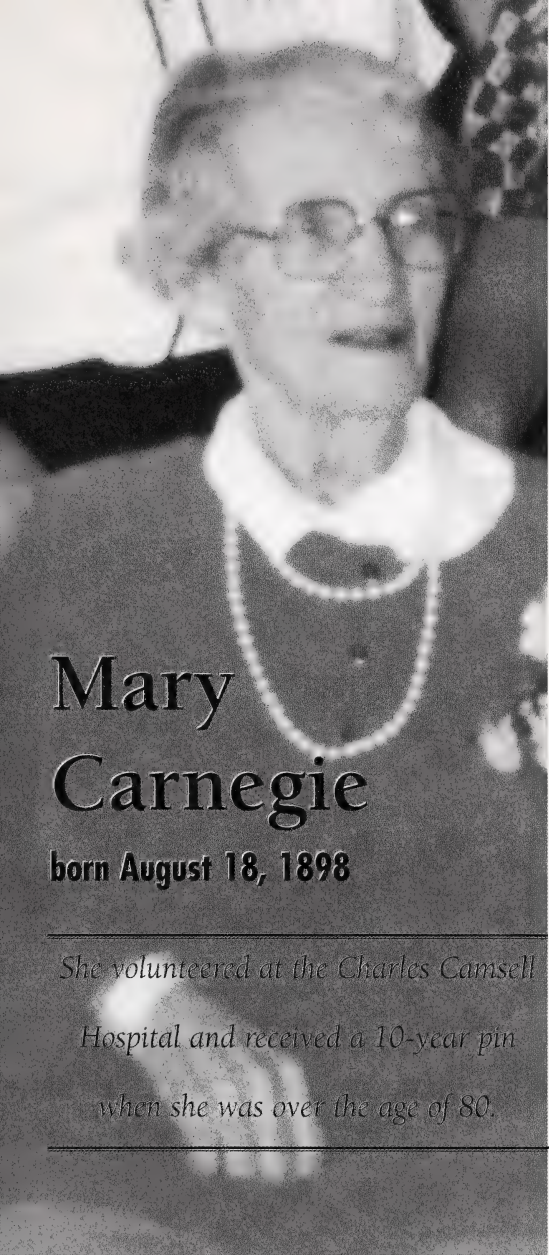
Charlotte Viola was the eldest child born to William and Sarah Roach in Port Perry, Ontario on December 28, 1898. Charlotte's sister Sadie and brother Keith were born some years later. In 1906, the family moved west to homestead in the Brownsfield district north of Coronation. Lottie, as she is known, grew up and went to school in Coronation. She married Mack Brown in 1923 and moved a few miles south to the Bulwark district where her two children Frances and Archie were born. She helped her husband as all pioneer women do, baking bread, milking cows, raising chickens, and driving horses during haying and harvesting. She always belonged to the United

Mother's Christmas Pudding

*1/2 cup margarine or butter or 1 cup of suet
1 cup sugar
1 cup carrots (grated finely)
1 cup potatoes (grated finely)
1 cup apples (grated finely)
1 cup raisins
1 cup currants
1 cup flour
1 cup salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. allspice
1 cup bread crumbs
1 tsp. soda*

Mix well together and steam 3 hours or more and serve with choice of sauce.





Mary Carnegie

born August 18, 1898

*She volunteered at the Charles Camsell
Hospital and received a 10-year pin
when she was over the age of 80.*

Mary A. Carnegie (nee Hendriks) was born in Klimmen, Holland on August 18, 1898 and arrived in Canada from the Netherlands in 1903. Her parents homesteaded in Ogema, Saskatchewan. Mary was taken out of school in second grade to look after her mother and baby brother. She went back to school at age 14 and graduated from grade eight at age 20.

Mary left home at age 21 and moved to Alberta in 1919. She worked at the Mental Hospital in Red Deer for six years before moving to Edmonton. She held various jobs (seamstress, housekeeper). She met William Carnegie and they were married on June 19, 1928. She was married to him for 55 years and became a proud mother of two, grandmother of seven, and great grandmother of 14. She volunteered at the Charles Camsell Hospital and received a 10-year pin when she was over the age of 80. She wheeled the patients to X-rays or other tests and also traveled with them to other hospitals. She really loved this work.

She moved to Calgary in 1993 at the age of 95 to be closer to family. Family and friends celebrated her 100th birthday at Cedar's Villa Nursing Home in Calgary. She was in great spirits and even made a short speech to thank everyone for coming.



Bertha A. Garvey

born September 2, 1900

She raised her children by

taking in roomers.

Bertha A. Garvey was born September 2, 1900 in Webster, South Dakota. She came to Alberta in 1907 with her family.

Bertha was married in 1919 to Robert Garvey and was left with four children in 1937. She raised her children by taking in roomers. She cooked their meals, cleaned their rooms and did their laundry. In 1948, she was able to buy a larger home and had up to 12 boarders. She baked her own bread and buns and was a terrific cook. My families' favorite memory is coming home on "Baking Day" to the smell of fresh baked bread and cinnamon buns.

She loved family gatherings and when one of her brothers or sisters visited from their farms, she would really cook up a great meal.

Later in life she took up league bowling once a week and was able to take a few bus trips to challenging towns. She enjoyed meeting new people. Later, as she could save up the money, she took bus tours to California, Mexico, Vancouver; she even sailed to Alaska on one trip.

In 1988, she suffered a stroke, fought her way back to pretty good health, sold her home and moved into the Ottewell Lodge. In 1997, she had another stroke, this time to the brain and after rehab was moved to Extencare/Holyrood where she still plays bingo every Thursday. She is the grandmother of 13, great grandmother of 20, and the great-great grandmother of one.



ENROL
HERE!

HELP THE RED CROSS
SAVE LIVES!

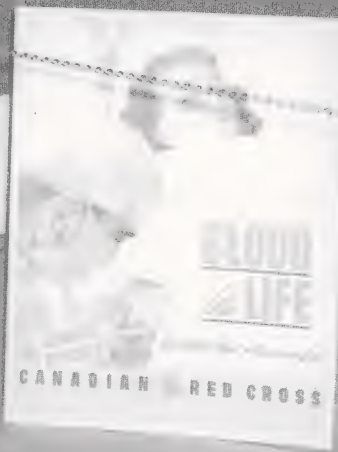
BE A VOLUNTARY

BLOOD DONOR

ENROL WITH THE

LOCAL RED CROSS BRANCH

ENROL HERE





Ida Fern Goettler

born July 1, 1900

*Her only advice is, “Don’t smoke and
drink and make the best of life.”*

Ida Fern Goettler (maiden name Rowe) was born on July 1st (Canada Day), 1900, in Riceville, Ontario. Her parents were dairy farmers. They lived near the river and every spring their house flooded. She says, “Mother took us riding in a boat with oars to paddle in a stream across the river. Every morning and evening the cows had to swim to the river to pasture for milking. We would go on the ferry to wash the milk pails and scoop the fish. Postage on letters was two cents. I always had to wear boots and rode a horse to school every day three miles each way.” She recalls the beautiful maple trees and visiting her Aunt Hannah and Uncle Jim, who made them green tea with maple syrup and served cheese curds. Ida was named after their daughter who died when she was 15.

In 1910, Ida’s parents bought a half section near Moosejaw, Saskatchewan. In 1925, Ida and her sister Sadie married two brothers, Jack and Bill Goettler. Ida was the only one in her family to settle in Alberta. In 1935, Ida and Jack came to Alberta. They lived in Dewinton and Didsbury before they bought a half section in Crossfield. They farmed a mixed farm for 25 years and retired to Red Deer in 1970. Ida and Jack were married for 62 years and had two children, Merle and Jacky. Jack died in 1987 at the age of 96. Ida has also outlived her son, and two sisters and a brother.

“Granny”, as family, friends and neighbors lovingly refer to her, is known for her loving kindness and generosity. She is the oldest and longest resident in the neighborhood. Over the years, she has donated crafts and baking to the church and community and has won many prizes for her baking, flowers and handicrafts. She has always had a large vegetable garden and flowers and continues to live alone and maintain her house, yard, garden and flowers, in addition to sewing, crafts, baking and canning. She has a busy and happy life with lots of friends and family and visitors throughout the year. She has four grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Her only advice is, “Don’t smoke and drink and make the best of life.”





Ruth Hazel Hostad

born February 25, 1898

Dinner at noon, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and creamed peas fresh from the garden.

Ruth Hazel Hostad was born February 25, 1898 in Adrian, North Dakota, United States. She came to Alberta in 1911. Ruth was married to Ole in 1920 and is a mother of six. Ruth was a Salvation Army Soldier for a number of years. She enjoyed doing many different crafts and painting. One favorite memory was every Sunday we would have a family gathering sharing stories and jokes. Dinner at noon, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and creamed peas fresh from the garden. The children sat around helping shell the peas, listening to tales of family events. When the meal was ready everyone sat down at the table. All the children waited until the adults had their meal first. Coffee was then served and all went outside to participate in games, ball, croquet and hide and seek. Later in the evening, the children would gather in the kitchen with the ladies and make popcorn necklaces and pull taffy.

Poor Man's Cake

*Milk pudding
2 eggs beaten
1 cup milk heated
1/4 cup sugar
2 or 3 tab. Flour*

*Cook till stiff
Serve with brown sugar sauce.*



Katherine Melle

born December 8, 1899

*... she also worked with the local country
doctor, delivering many babies, including
several sets of twins.*

Katherine (Ruschiensky) Melle was born in Romania on December 8, 1899. She came to Canada with her family when she was 11 years old. She is the eldest of 11 children, some of whom were born in Canada. Katherine worked as a domestic to help support her family from the time she was 11 years old until the age of 20. She did not have the opportunity to receive an education because there were no schools in the area. Therefore, she cannot read or write. However, she has had a very interesting and successful life.

At the age of 20, Katherine married K.J. Melle, a First World War veteran, and the family lived on a homestead farm at Minton, Saskatchewan. After her husband died in a car accident in 1957, Katherine retired to the

village of Minton. Katherine has five children of her own as well as an adopted son (who has passed away). She has many talents and hobbies, including sewing and quilting. In fact, she has designed her own patterns for herself, her children, and many friends and neighbors. In the past, she also worked with the local country doctor, delivering many babies, including several sets of twins. Katherine helped her infirm in-laws and was very involved in church and community work; she supplied room and board for country school-teachers as well as help for less fortunate friends and neighbors. She certainly has had many accomplishments!

Katherine resided in her own home until the age of 86. To be closer to her family, she moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta in 1986, and resided at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged for 13 years. Unfortunately, she broke her hip in May 1999, and is presently living in a nursing home.

Katherine's family of five children, 26 grandchildren, and 41 great grandchildren have been instilled with her sense of pride, her values and her work ethics. Katherine is a woman who is deeply committed to her religion and it has sustained her to this day.





Julia Anne Ornburn

born January 15, 1899

*... opened their home for overnight
visitors or wayfarers in the hard
“thirties”.*

Julia Anne Ornburn (nee Drydale) was born in Bolckow, Missouri on January 15, 1899. On April 2, 1914, at the age of 15, she came with her parents, Mary and Bill Drydale and their family to Alberta, Canada. They settled on their farm three miles east of Standard. Julie remembers the C.P.R. as being good to the settlers. A big two-story house had been built, ready for them, when they arrived. A good well had also been dug. The Drydales were given a cow and calf to take care of when they arrived. When the calf was weaned it was returned to the C.P.R. farm at Strathmore, and the cow was left with the family. Thus, they had milk for the family, and the cow was a start for their herd.

Julia was a good cook. As a young girl she worked at the Hawk Eye Ranch north of Hussar for several months. She was later employed in Calgary as a Milliner for eight months, before marrying Floyd Ornburn on December 2, 1919. They took up residence on Floyd's farm, five miles east of Standard. They raised six daughters, through good times and bad, and did their best to make a good life for their family.

While younger, Julia was famous for her running ability. She outdistanced both men and women in the foot races at the local sports days in Standard. She was an excellent speller, always getting top marks in spelling at her school in Missouri. She loved to dance, and with Floyd attended the local dances at school parties.

Always hospitable, there were many times when she and Floyd opened their home for overnight visitors or wayfarers in the hard “thirties”. Many card parties and birthday parties were held in their home for family and friends.

Their oldest daughter, Rose, was a volunteer in the Canadian Navy during the war. Julia was very active in the Standard Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary during the war years and for many years afterwards. She was also very active in the United Farmers of Alberta, holding many meetings in her home. An

excellent seamstress, Julia would work the pedals of the old Singer sewing machine, whistling while she worked. She was a good whistler and carried many a happy tune as she went about her work. She enjoyed canning the produce from Floyd's big garden. A good crocheter, she contributed many afghans to her family and grandchildren. She always enjoyed their visits.

One of her favorite recipes was for popcorn balls, a specialty for Christmas. We looked forward to this treat for many years.

Floyd and Julia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Standard on November 30, 1969. In 1970, they retired off the farm to Calgary. Floyd passed away on June 1, 1973, after 54 years of marriage. Julia continued to live in her home in Calgary, always hospitable to family and friends. Health problems prompted her move to Bethany Care in Calgary in 1995. Her fondest memories are happy times with family and friends.

On turning 100, a party was held in her honor on January 17 at Bethany Care, with five different generations present. Julia believes she owes her longevity to not smoking or drinking and to hard work cheerfully done. Confined to a wheelchair because of arthritis, Julia's mind is clear, and her characteristic advice is to mind your own business and let others do as they please. Julia is the proud

mother of six, grandmother of 25, great grandmother of 33, great-great grandmother of seven, and great-great-great grandmother of two. She is cheerfully looking forward to her 200th birthday!

Popcorn Balls

2 cups white sugar
2/3 cup hot water
1 cup Rogers Syrup
(or use Lily White Syrup)
1 tsp butter and 1/2 tsp vanilla
6 cups of popped corn

Boil all together until the hard ball stage is reached. (Drop a bit of syrup in a cup of water to see if it forms a hard ball.) When this stage is reached, pour over popped corn. Shape into balls.





Madeline Gertrude Sax

born December 8, 1894

*Madeline enjoys knitting, crocheting and
square dancing.*

Madeline Gertrude Sax was born on December 8, 1894 in Lacombe, Alberta. Madeline was married for 38 years and was the proud mother of four sons, grandmother of 12, great grandmother of 20, step grandmother of 17, and step great grandmother of 23.

Her community contributions include involvement in church clubs, community functions and at the Women's Institute. She was a great fan of basketball, baseball and curling. Madeline enjoyed knitting, crocheting and square dancing. Her favorite recipes were Spring Fried Chicken, Waldorf Salad, and Devil's Food Cake. On May 28, 2000 Madeline passed away at the age of 105.



Natalie Shadbolt

born October 15, 1900

*Natalie spent countless hours supporting
the local rural community ...*

Natalie Shadbolt was born on October 15, 1900 in Tupper, Manitoba. She attended grade school at Grass River, Manitoba before furthering her education in Plumas and Winnipeg to become a teacher. Natalie married John Shadbolt in 1929 and moved to Edgerton, Alberta shortly afterward, in 1930. They farmed for 39 years before returning to Wainwright, where Natalie still resides.

Natalie spent countless hours supporting the local rural community and helping neighbors. She also enjoyed working with her hands, and produced marvelous gardens, clothes, embroidery and cooking treats. Everyone was always welcome at their house. Many good visits, delicious meals and entertaining games of cards were enjoyed at her kitchen table. Natalie was married to John

Shadbolt for 46 years and is the proud mother of three, grandmother of eight, great grandmother of nine, and great-great grandmother of two.

Natalie loved to travel in Canada and abroad. Having witnessed and experienced many hardships and technological changes throughout her life, she chooses not to dwell on the past. Instead she embraces life and maintains a sense of humor and a friendly smile.

Meatloaf

2 eggs
3/4 cup milk
1 cup dry breadcrumbs
2 lbs. ground beef
2 cups soft bread (tear into pieces)
1 medium onion (chopped fine)

1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
pinch garlic salt
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

Mix all together. Shape into loaf. Bake at 300° for 2 hours.

A black and white photograph of an elderly woman, Lily C. Williamson, sitting outdoors. She is wearing glasses and a patterned blouse. The background is filled with foliage. The text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

Lily C. Williamson

born December 25, 1897

*... the Secretary General of the
Canadian Red Cross, George Weber
from Toronto, and the Commissioner of
the Saskatchewan Division, Dwight W.
Mihalicz, traveled to Kincaid and
presented Lily Williamson with the Red
Cross Distinguished Service Award.*

Lily was born December 25, 1897 in Derby, Derbyshire, England. Lily and John Williamson were married in England on January 20, 1926. Lily then moved to her husband's farm north east of Kincaid in Saskatchewan. For many years Lily was a volunteer with the Kincaid Hospital Aid and she was an untiring worker for the Red Cross. She knitted many pairs of socks and afghans for the Red Cross. In her longtime involvement with the Kincaid Branch of Red Cross she was serving as secretary, treasurer, campaign chairman, and A.I.D. chairman as well as working with Blood Donor Recruitment. As area chairman she recruited and trained many Red Cross campaign organizers.

In August of 1985, shortly before she moved to Calgary, the Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross, George Weber from Toronto, and the Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Division, Dwight W. Mihalicz, traveled to Kincaid and presented Lily Williamson with the Red Cross Distinguished Service Award. She had previously been awarded the Certificate of Merit and the Badge of Service for her work with the Red Cross. She and her husband had two children. Lily now also has three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.





Religious Devotion

... the Secretary General of the
Canadian Red Cross, George Weber
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Religious Devotion

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... the Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross, George Weber from Toronto, and the Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Division, Dwight W. Mihalicz, traveled to Kincaid and presented Lily Williamson with the Cross Distinguished Service Award.



Sister Louisa Dupuis

born August 12, 1900

*May God continue to bless this
remarkable zealous servant of the poor.*

Sister Louisa was born, the youngest of 12 children, on August 12, 1900 on farm in St. Jean-Baptiste, Manitoba. She arrived in Alberta on April 19, 1949. Sister Louisa experienced the realities of poverty around her at an early age. Her parents had to work hard to provide for their large family and no doubt, Sister learned from them the value of work.

At the age of 22, after some work experience, Sister Louisa felt called to religious life. She was attracted to the Grey Nuns because their religious habit seemed so well adapted to working women. After her first vows in 1924, Sister was assigned to St. Boniface Hospital where she worked in the purchasing office for 39 years. Then to her surprise, she was asked to go to Alberta as a missionary, first to St. Albert, Alberta and then on to Ile-alla-Crosse, Saskatchewan. Sister Louisa, while occupying administrative positions, was always available for any manual work that had to be done especially for the benefit of needy persons. In 1970 she received the assignment of archivist at the provincial house in Edmonton. During the 20 years that she spent in that posting, Sister Louisa organized the department and worked long hours in order to respond to the demands of students, authors and other archivists.

Desiring to devote some time with lonely aging persons, Sister consecrated eight hours a week to the visitation of senior

residents at nearby nursing homes where she made many lasting friendships among the staff and the persons she visited. From one of these long term care facilities she received yearly certificates of appreciation with her total number of volunteer work totaling 6,369 hours over a period of 27 years. Finally, at age 96, after a fall causing a fractured hip, Sister Louisa resigned from this ministry which she loved so much.

However, Sister Louisa has a hobby that she has exercised on a part-time basis for 27 years and is now indulging in on a full-time basis since her retirement in 1996. The corner of a storage area in the lower level of the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre has served as a quilting haven for her. In the middle of the area is a waist high table where Sister Louisa lays out her pattern. A medieval looking black Singer sewing machine turns scraps of fabric into beautiful quilts. She estimated that, in the past 30 years she has completed 205 of them. These quilts are given to charity groups for auctions or raffles Grey Nuns meeting gathering sisters from the six branches of the daughters events.

In May 1999, Sister Louisa chose to fly back to Manitoba to celebrate her 75 years of religious life so as to be near to family for this great occasion. However, as soon as her two-week vacation was over, she boarded the plane in a wheelchair to return to Edmonton to

continue working for the poor people whom she helps through the sale of her quilts.

The climax of her 100 years will be a trip to Montreal during the Jubilee year 2000 for a mammoth of St. Marguerite d'Youville from all continents of the world. May God continue to bless this remarkable zealous servant of the poor.





Reverend Cornelius Landrigan

born December 13, 1900

He arrived in Alberta in September

1926 to study theology at St. Joseph

Seminary in Edmonton ...

Cornelius Landrigan was born December 13, 1900 in Sturgeon, Prince Edward Island to Mattias Landrigan and Catherine Donahoe. He arrived in Alberta in September 1926 to study theology at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton until 1928. He then moved to Toronto in 1929 to attend St. Augustine's. He was ordained at St. Augustine's by Archbishop Neil McNeil for the Edmonton Archdiocese on December 21, 1930.

Reverend Landrigan held many positions in the Church. For the first 17 years after his ordination, he was Pastor in Edson and the missions of Lac La Nonne, Cherhill, Sandy Lake, Glenevis and Gunn. From 1949-50, he was acting Pastor in Onoway (during Father Michael Rooney's sickness).

From May of 1950 until 1961, Reverend Landrigan acted as Pastor in Vermillion, serving also Mannville and Islay. He was the Dean of Vermillion for half that time and saw to the building of a new church.

From 1961 to 1969, he was Pastor for St. Paul's Parish in Edmonton. The year after that, he retired and lived in residence at St. Patrick's rectory in Edmonton. For the next eight years, he lived in residence at St. Edmund's rectory before living the next 10 in residence at Good Shepherd Parish. From 1988 until 1997, he lived in his last residency at Grey Nuns Regional Centre.

Since his ordination in 1931, Father Landrigan served, Edson, the Missions at Bickerdike, Bright Bank, Junkins, Lindale, McKay, Marlboro, Obed, Pocahontas, Rosevear, Coalspur, Blackstone, Robb and Wield.

Father Landrigan passed away on March 3, 2000.







Technology

Technology







Adam Andres

born September 11, 1899

A ride in the Ponoka Stampede

Stagecoach was part of the birthday

celebration for Adam Andres of

Wetaskiwin who turned 100 on

September 11, 1999.

A ride in the Ponoka Stampede Stagecoach was part of the birthday celebration for Adam Andres of Wetaskiwin who turned 100 on September 11, 1999. He was accompanied by his great granddaughter, Keora (born a century after he was), Henry Fleck and George McCauhey of Ponoka and Bill Baker of Wetaskiwin drove the stagecoach.

Adam Andres was born on September 11, 1899, in Saltcoats, Northwest Territories before Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed as provinces. He was the fourth of 12 children born to Alfred and Paulina Andres. Adam was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Landestreu, Northwest Territories. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Wetaskiwin and has served on Church Council and in many other capacities over the years to support and maintain the church wherever he lived.

Adam was raised on the farm before automobiles, trucks and tractors were common, and at a time when horsepower literally referred to the number of horses you had hitched to your wagon, plow or other implement. He lived and farmed with his parents until he married Anna in 1927. Adam and Anna farmed in the area around MacNutt, Saskatchewan and Roblin, Manitoba until 1956 when they purchased and operated a grocery store in

Roblin. They moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1958 where Adam worked as a carpenter for Home Development. In 1960, they moved to Wetaskiwin, Alta. where Adam worked for the provincial government as a janitor at the courthouse for three years. This was followed by nine years of employment as a janitor for the Department of Agriculture. He retired at the age of 72. They sold their house in 1990 and moved to Luther Manor and in 1994, they then moved to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Wetaskiwin, where Adam is currently living. Anna resides at the Crossroads Long Term Care Unit in Wetaskiwin.

Adam and Anna had three children, Orlyn (Ruth), Doris (Walter), and Aurelia (Gary) together with six grandchildren, Libby (Dale), Judy (Norm), Marilyn (Ed), Alayne, Leora (Dwayne) and Kara (John) and four great grandchildren, Geofrey, Michael, Katherine and Keora.

In their 72 years of marriage, Adam and Anna enjoyed gardening and their home was always a showplace, surrounded by beautiful flowers, well-manicured lawns and carefully trimmed trees and shrubs. In addition to gardening, Adam enjoyed playing pool in his recreation room. He also enjoyed a good game of horseshoe and he avidly watches sports and politics on television.



Edith Bailey

born January 19, 1895

*Edith doesn't understand what the fuss is
all about when a dozen friends and
family gather to celebrate her
105th birthday.*

Edith May White was born on January 19, 1895 in London, England. Edith came to Canada in 1916, during the First World War. At the age of 20 Edith was hoping to make a better life for herself. She landed in Quebec and took the train to Edmonton, where she gained a position as a housekeeper with an English family.

Shortly after arriving in Edmonton, Edith visited Tofield to see a cousin and while she was there she met her future husband, Bill Bailey. They married in 1926 and lived on a farm in the Ross Creek area, where they had no running water or electricity. The couple then moved to Tofield and Bill worked as a mail carrier for 17 years. Bill died in 1952 from a

heart attack when Edith was 57. Edith took up babysitting to earn a living because in those days a pension wasn't available until you turned 70. Edith was always the person you could count on to look after your kids when they were sick.

Edith Bailey moved into the Tofield Lodge in 1977, switching to the health centre in her later years. She has two children, eight grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and 10 great-great grandchildren.

After living in three centuries, Edith isn't about to get excited about a birthday even when it is her 105th.

Edith doesn't understand what the fuss is all about when a dozen friends and family gather to celebrate her 105th birthday. For her party she sat in a wheelchair, where she has been confined since she broke her hip at age 99. Edith's secret to longevity is she put her trust in the Lord. The church has always been a part of her life. Edith has outlived her husband, an older brother, and five sisters. In her time there's been the invention of radio, telephone, television, and computers.





Cordelie T. Browne

born April 26, 1900

*"Indoor plumbing" arrived when my
father sanded the rough edges off a
wooden bucket ...*

In 1793 a ship landed on the island of Miquelon, most of its passengers dead from cholera. A kindly priest took in an orphaned boy, naming him Cyr Miquelon. Cyr Miquelon was my great-great grandfather.

My grandfather, Zoel Miquelon, settled in Wetaskiwin. He surveyed the region, and today, both Miquelon Lake and Miquelon Provincial Park bear his name.

Zoel's son, Louis T. Miquelon, was my father. He and my mother, Olivine DeLorne, had 13 children. I was the 10th, born on April 26, 1900. I lived most of my childhood in Wetaskiwin. I remember many visitors, some well known: Bishops Grandin and Legal, Fathers Lacombe and Leduc. They celebrated mass in our home, and afterwards 35 or 40 people stayed for dinner.

We had neither plumbing nor electricity. "Indoor plumbing" arrived when my father sanded the rough edges off a wooden bucket for us to use at night. We thought it was grand! My mother used oil lamps until her death in 1925. We traveled by horse and farmed with oxen. When Canada entered the First World War, we were paid \$200 for our horses. The first motor car I ever saw belonged to Ted Reynolds, who made it from salvaged parts. For my first car ride I wore a big hat with a veil to keep out all of the dust.

In 1909, I was sent to a convent in St. Albert. I remember hearing about Haley's Comet in 1910; the nuns frightened us so badly with their stories that we hid under our beds and prayed. I moved to Leduc when I was 17 to work as a telephone operator. On Armistice Day in 1918 I began work on the AGT switchboard in Calgary. This surprised my new boss because most people were in the streets, cheering and yelling, with talcum powder (of all things!) in their hair.

I then moved to Edmonton where I have lived ever since. In 1922, I married Anthony Harrison. When Anthony died of cancer in 1934, I was left with our two boys, Valere and Jack. In 1936, I married the most eligible bachelor in Edmonton, Charles Browne, who was known for his gold and his little yellow roadster. Together we had a daughter, Adele. Charles died in 1967, at the age of 80 years.

Today I have seven grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. I wonder if they really believe that I lived through all the great events of the 20th century.



Leo Francis Collis

born March 17, 1897

*He drove a white truck up and down
Jasper Avenue giving rides to celebrate
the end of the First World War.*

Leo was born on March 17, 1897 in Marfa, Texas, to Elizabeth and Michael, the eldest of four children. The family moved from Michigan to Edmonton in February 1911. Leo worked for Alberta Groceries making deliveries to small stores. He drove a white truck up and down Jasper Avenue giving rides to celebrate the end of First World War. Leo played the clarinet in the News Boys Band. They played for the Prince of Wales at Government House in Edmonton. That night, Leo and the prince schemed a plan to allow the prince to attend a public dance. The band played at the Empire Games, England, in 1924.

Leo worked for 41 years as a technician for Borrough's Business Machines. He had a passion for fixing and inventing things. He built his family home in 1948 where he lived until 1997. Leo attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church for 48 years and practices his religion in his daily life. He joined the Vegreville Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's. He never preaches, but leads by example. He only has good words to say about others.

Cindy will remember him calling her "Honey", and his contagious laugh. He is always happy. Karen knows that her grandpa will live forever. She has warm memories of grandpa rubbing his hands together and smiling when she asked him how he was, his eyes would twinkle and say, "I'm perfect." Leigh knows even though grandpa was 80 when she first met him, he was never old. He taught her how to whistle and blow bubbles with gum, how to play checkers and cards. She will always remember grandpa's sparkly eyes and his smile. Leo broke both hips in 1999. Even though he has been in pain and had some difficult days he continues to amaze all of us with his zest for life, his cheerful smile, and high spirit. Leo passed away on December 1, 1999.



A black and white photograph of an elderly woman, Karin Crance, with short, wavy hair, wearing a dark top and a pearl necklace. She is seated and looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is slightly out of focus, showing some architectural details.

Karin Crance

born June 4, 1897

*Karin tells the story of working in a
factory bending bedsprings at the
age of 14.*

My mother, Karin Crance, was born Karin Sanden on June 4, 1897 in Jamtland, Sweden. Her parents had dreamed of settling in Canada. They decided to immigrate and arrived in Winnipeg in December 1905. Winnipeg winters were bitter, but with typical Swedish stubbornness and tenacity, they toughed it out, and the family never saw Sweden again.

Karin received very little formal education as she was depended upon to help provide for the family, being the eldest of three sisters and a brother. Karin tells the story of working in a factory bending bedsprings at the age of 14. Later, she worked in a doctor's office, a restaurant and as a sales clerk in Eatons until she lost her job in the general strike of 1919. All the while, she did whatever she could to

improve her education by home study and night school.

She married Alfred in 1924, and they had one child. They lived in Winnipeg until 1961, when they moved to Calgary. Alfred was ill with a stroke and mom thought things would be better if the family was closer together. Alfred passed away in May 1962. Later, Karin moved to Victoria, where she lived for 17 years. She returned to Calgary in 1985, rented an apartment and lived independently until the age of 98. She now "runs things" at the Mayfair Nursing Home. At the age of 103, she is still in remarkably good health and is very sharp mentally.

When Karin was asked if there was anything outstanding in her life that should be mentioned in this booklet, she simply said, "Not really. I have lived through two world wars and the great depression, seen the advent of manned flight, satellites and space exploration, TV, computer, and a host of inventions. There have been advances in medicine, social programs, education, and in almost every field you can name, but somehow people don't seem happier than in the past. I have just done what everyone else has done. But maybe I'll be able to say that I have lived in three centuries and that is an accomplishment."





Elizabeth Ewasiuk

born August 2, 1899

*My favorite recipe is not for baking, but
for living...*

Elizabeth was born on August 2, 1899 in Bukovina, Ukraine, and moved to Alberta in 1902. We think of the '70s as the formative years of the Women's Liberation Movement. This movement is a state of mind, because Elizabeth was liberated in 1917, the year she got married to William Ewasiuk. She took on the role of a helpmate to her husband. She chopped trees, piled branches and grubbed the roots, helped break the land, and build, plant and harvest. She was not restricted to a woman's role except that of bearing children, preparing meals and housekeeping. Elizabeth is a very strong individual blessed with numerous talents. She has no formal education, but her wisdom and experience gained during the passage of time would surpass that of noted scholars. Her love of living is undisputed, she loves being with people, talking and helping them.

Elizabeth is also remembered best, for her singing with others, happy and folk songs, tragic songs and Christmas Carols. She loved gardening and her flowers, and excelled in embroidery, cross-stitch, weaving, Easter egg decorating. She and her husband contributed

much to their community, the church and our country, and leave a continuing legacy to their five children, 15 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren.

Elizabeth has noted that the most notable changes to the world during the past 100 years are the breaking and cultivating, planting and harvesting of two or three acres of land to vast expanses of farmland that covers quarters, sections of golden harvest crops. The use of oxen and horses used to farm and the present motorized farm equipment that cost thousands of dollars. The transition of travel, we walked miles and miles, we then used oxen, then horses, rickety cars, modern cars, airplanes, jumbo-jets and now, space ships to the moon. Our modest homes that provided only shelter, water was drawn from a well or spring, and heat was provided by a wood burning stove, to our homes now, connected to running water and heat that is controlled by a turn of the thermostat.

My favorite recipe is not for baking, but for living: Ask God to give you strength to work hard and the will to be happy. I've had a good, long life and I'm grateful.





Lawrence Fisher

born October 27, 1900

*... was instrumental in the development
of roads, power and telephone coming
into the rural areas.*

Lawrence Fisher was born on October 27, 1900 in Shedd, Oregon, United States. Lawrence, his parents, William J. and Winnie Fisher and sister Violet arrived at Hutton, Alberta near Bassano in March 1910 where they homesteaded. Lawrence recalls coming by train with all their livestock and possessions over the big bridge at Lethbridge to barren land between the Red Deer River and Berry creek. After a few years the family decided to relocate and in 1916 they bought land four miles north of Olds, Alberta. Lawrence married Grace Burns in 1928 and they lived on this farm until 1991 when they retired to their home in Olds. During these years, Lawrence and Grace had a mixed farm

with a dairy herd, purebred Herefords, grain, hay, pigs and chickens and farmed with oxen, horses, tractors, threshing machines and combines. Over the 80 years of farming, he saw many changes in the machinery used and farming practices but was always very receptive to modern equipment and ideas. His last air-conditioned car was certainly an improvement over the old Model T Ford or its predecessor, the horse-drawn buggy. He often recalls his first airplane flight to Scotland and the marvel held in it.

Lawrence's great enthusiasm for life and his tremendous sense of humor were reflected in the many endeavors he undertook. He was a member of the first 4-H club in Alberta, which was a pig club. Some years later, Lawrence became the leader of the 4-H Beef Club in Olds and held the position for 28 years. He was a director and livestock chairman for the beef committee of the Olds Agricultural Society. Having been a purebred Hereford producer and member of the Central Alberta Hereford Club, Lawrence was inducted into the Alberta Hereford Hall of Fame in 1996. He was involved in the Samis Community north of Olds and was instrumental in the development of roads, power and telephone coming into the rural areas. Being a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Olds was a large part of his life and he served as a member of the board of managers and on the session for over 30 years.

Much of Lawrence's life has been his involvement with music and sports. He played the fiddle at many house parties and dances and later included his children playing in the Fisher Orchestra. Over the years he has been a great fan of hockey, football and baseball. Lawrence loved to grow potatoes, onions and raspberries for his own consumption and of course with 1200 hills of potatoes; he had to give some away.

Of all the many things he enjoyed throughout his life, Lawrence put his family above all others, his wife of 68 years, their seven children, 19 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. His family has been his greatest source of pride and joy and he also treasures his many friends.

When asked why they moved to Alberta, he replied "land was scarce in Oregon, and very plentiful in Alberta and this country had many opportunities if you were not afraid of hard work!"



Yates McPhee Foxall

born August 18, 1899

*Yates remembers seeing his first car and
was not impressed!*

Yates McPhee Foxall was born August 18, 1899 in Brandon Hills, Manitoba. He arrived in Alberta in 1902. Yates was married to his first wife for four years and to his second wife for 33 years and is a proud father of five, grandfather of six, and great grandfather of 10.

During the Depression of the 1930s, Yates contributed much time and effort in leading a small rural church using the facilities of the country schoolhouse. During the winters, he led the Depression Club to hold concerts of local talent for entertainment in this rural area south of Erskine.

Yates remembers seeing his first car and was not impressed! He considered that his pony was of greater usefulness as seen in his remark, "How can that thing (car) chase cattle out of the bush."

Yates' artistic endeavors included pencil drawing of animals and ink sketches in many autograph albums of young people.

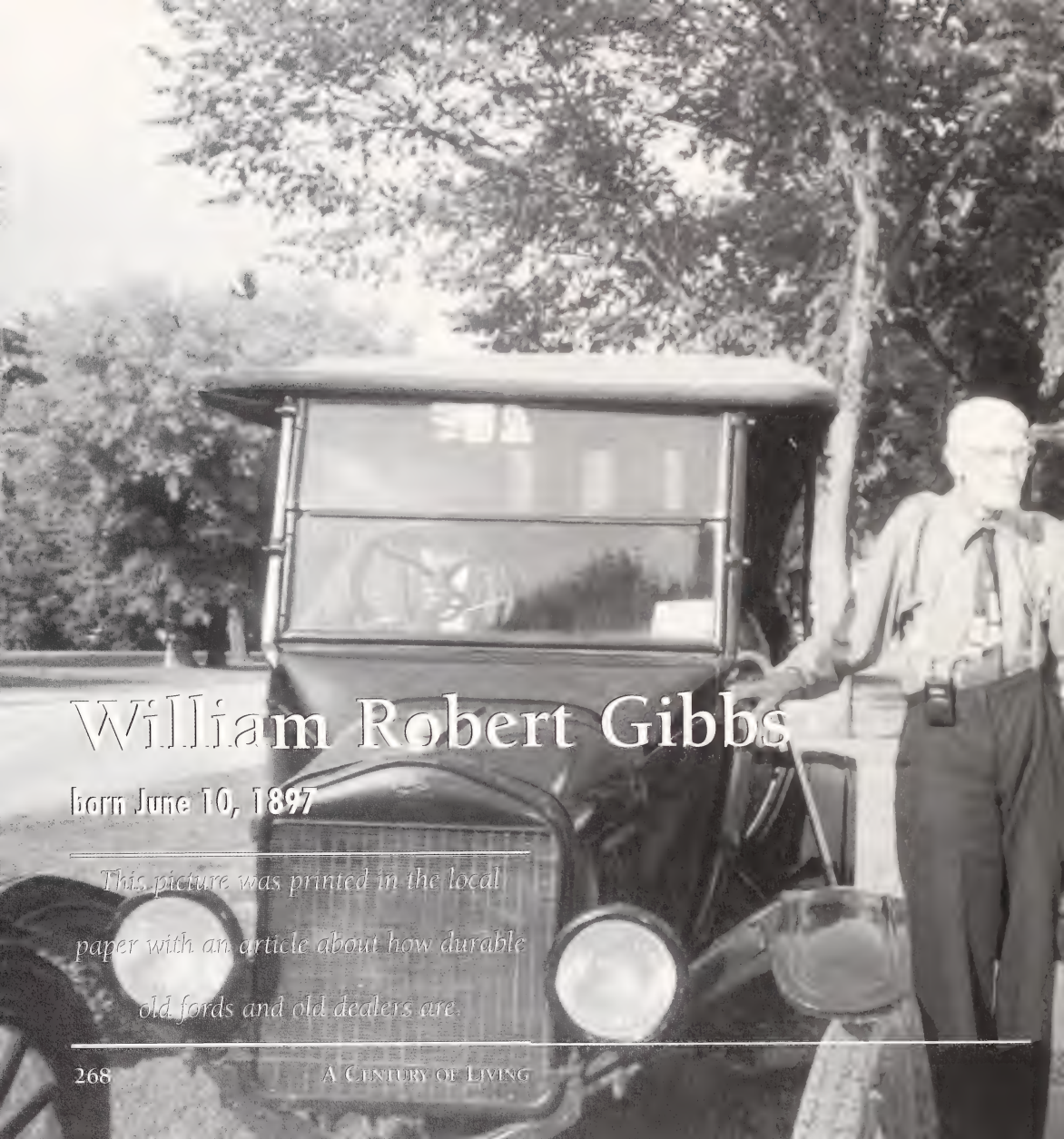
"Now that I am old, really old, my memory sometimes has flashbacks. Here are two fondest memories: I had a quiet pony that took me safely to Ewing School south of Erskine in Alberta. My father bought him for me but they did not tell him that the horse had been used for racing. One cold winter night I was coming home perched up on him and

when we were almost home he bucked and I went up in the air but when I came down the pony was not there. He was standing at the home corral gate looking at me picking myself up out of a snowdrift. If a horse could laugh, he was!

I liked playing ball at school and I thought I really could pitch. My father bought me a pitcher glove, much too large of course for my little hand. Then I began to get weaker and weaker and soon wouldn't use it. Then we moved to Victoria where a doctor took me out

of school. There went my education. I remember him telling my mother, "If you do as I say I think he will make it, feed him good and do not let him do much for a month and make sure he gets lots of fresh air." Dad built a wooden platform with sides about four feet high, with a canvas roof, like a tent, where I lived. I went to the house for my meals. I guess it paid off. It worked for me, here I am in my old age and thankful for the Golden Hills Lodge in Three Hills."





William Robert Gibbs

Born June 10, 1897

*This picture was printed in the local
paper with an article about how durable
old fords and old dealers are.*

My father, William (Bill) Gibbs, was born June 10, 1897 on a farm in the Snowflake District of Southern Manitoba, the second of the seven children of Arthur and Jessie Gibbs. When he was about eight years old, the family moved to the village of Pilot Mound, Manitoba, where his parents owned and operated the Queen's Hotel. He grew up and went to school there.

In 1917, he joined the army and served in France and Belgium with the 27 battalion. When he returned to Pilot Mound in 1919, he, along with his father and brother Henry converted the hotel into a garage where they would repair cars and sell Fords for the next 65 years. He was 86 when they closed the garage and retired.

William has always had a keen interest in sports. He played hockey, baseball and curled on local teams. William was captain of the Pilot Mound Hockey team when they won the Southern Manitoba Championship during the 1920/21 hockey season. He always has enjoyed hunting, fishing and trap shooting. While William was in the army, he won the crossed rifles decoration for marksmanship.

In 1924, William married Ada Hayward. They continued to live in Pilot Mound and raised two daughters. Ada died in 1960. William has seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

In 1990, William moved to Alberta to live with his son. In June 1997, William celebrated his 100th birthday. Shortly after his birthday, William's daughter and son took him on a trip back to Pilot Mound. William enjoyed getting back to visit old friends. While he was there, William took a ride in a restored 1923 Model T Ford. He remembered selling the car to the original owner. In the picture he is standing beside the car. This picture was printed in the local paper with an article about how durable old fords and old dealers are.

During the winter of 1997, after an illness, William entered a nursing home in Didsbury, Alberta, where he still lives. In 1999, the French government honored the remaining Veterans of the First World War by presenting them with their highest national order, The Legion of Honor. M. Michel DeJagher, Council General of France in Vancouver, came to the Nursing Home to present the medal to William personally. William also received a John McCrae medallion from the Canadian Government, and a Certificate from the Queen.

Last summer, William was a torchbearer for the opening of the Senior Games in Didsbury/Olds. Although he is confined to a wheelchair and has poor hearing, my father continues to enjoy fairly good health and spirits.



Mary Alice Harriss

born August 10, 1899

When Mary Harris was born, Queen Victoria was still the head of the British Empire, the Wright brothers were just a couple of crazy kids with wild ideas, and Alberta was a wild and untamed territory.

When Mary Harris was born, Queen Victoria was still the head of the British Empire, the Wright brothers were just a couple of crazy kids with wild ideas, and Alberta was a wild and untamed territory.

Much has changed over the past 100 years. The Royal family is not quite as revered as it was during Victoria's reign. What the Wright brothers started at Kittyhawk has taken man to the moon and back. And Alberta is six years away from celebrating its 100th anniversary as a part of Canada.

August 10, 1999 was a milestone for Mary and her family, which includes one daughter, six grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren, when the Drayton Valley Long Term Care resident hit the century mark.

Born in Stambridge East, Quebec on August 10, 1899 Mary has managed to travel across the country and fill her life with an abundance of different careers and interests. "I've done a lot of different things," says the former schoolteacher, retail store worker and government worker. Humor is a large part of Mary's secret to longevity, although she isn't willing to open her bag of secrets for everyone to discover. "Yes, I guess I do (have secrets)," she says with a smile. "Oh, I've got lots of them. That wouldn't do, though, to tell my secrets."

Mary and her family moved from Eastern Canada to Alberta in 1927 and eventually traveled from Chip Lake to Creston, British Columbia by covered wagon in 1935. They walked most of the way because they didn't own the wagon and it was pretty much full of supplies. The family stayed in Creston for one year before moving back to Alberta and settling in Edmonton. Mary moved to Drayton Valley last year where she has an abundance of family members in the area.

Today, her days are filled with her favorite pastime of rocking in her rocking chair and taking trips to the various parks with family members. Mary isn't always willing to tell of all the things that keep her smiling as she approaches her 101st birthday, but then it is far more fun to keep people guessing.

"I wouldn't dare tell you all the things I've done."



Norma Morris

born June 8, 1897

*All the inventions have been enjoyed,
but she refuses to learn the computer.*

"Enough is enough!"

Norma Arlene Kiser was born on June 8, 1897 in Ohio, Illinois to parents Estelle Fagan and Frank Kiser. At the age of 12, she moved with her parents to High River, Alberta. At age 18, she went to Normal school in Calgary. It was there (while studying to be a dignified teacher) that she was evicted from the dance floor for dancing the "latest" fox trot.

Norma taught school in the district near Delburne; she walked two miles each way in her buttoned boots. The youth today think these "new boots" are really cool, but Grandma wore them in 1916. She was always stylish and still is—as may be witnessed by her choice of color coordination, the cut of her dress, and the

stature of her presentation. She has a flair for detail that distinguishes her amongst many.

Norma Kiser married Lloyd (Pete) Morris in 1919. They lived in Delburne, where they raised three daughters and operated a creamery and a general store. Norma managed the Morris Store, cared for her family, and loved skating and curling. She was very active in the Delburne Community. For over 75 years, she was active in the Order of the Royal Purple, holding a number of offices including District Deputy in 1945 and Pianist in 1980-82. She played the organ in the Delburne Catholic Church for 50 years. In 1986, the Village of Delburne celebrated her contributions to the community by presenting her with the "Citizen of the Year" award. She has participated in preparing and serving lunches at the Seniors' Drop-In Centre until moving to Edmonton in 1992. Norma lived in the same house in Delburne for 73 years. Norma had two sisters. One passed away at age 18 and the other passed away about 15 years ago.

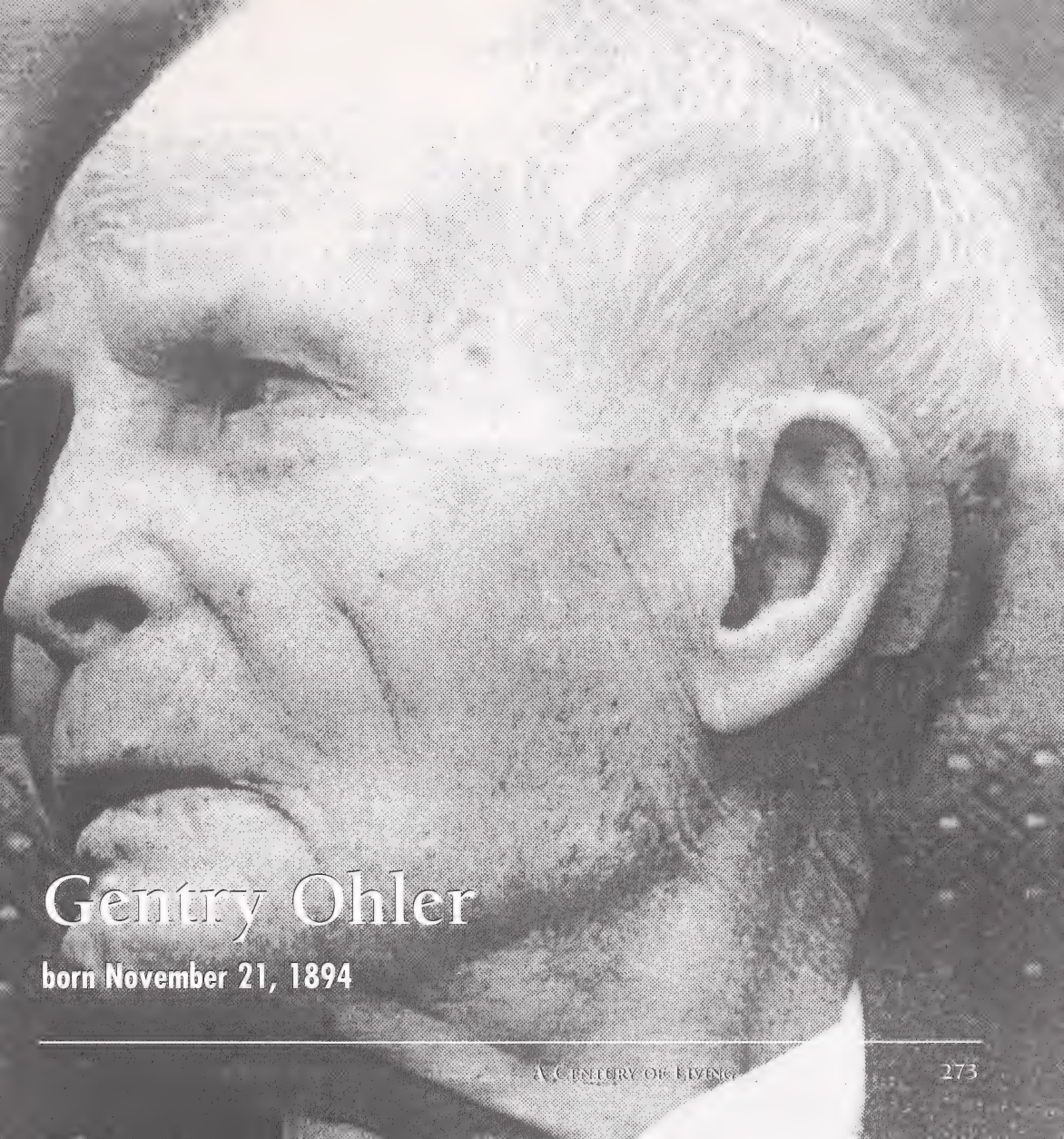
When her daughters were growing up, Norma sewed their clothes (dresses, etc., including many coats), and she did it with the same attention to style and detail that she herself portrayed. Rural doctors were scarce in the early days, but Norma had a thick doctor's book that served her family and the families of many when a doctor was not available. Many in the community came to her when ill or

frightened with family sickness. She saved several lives by using the big doctor's book. Norma never gave up hope, as witnessed when her daughters had scarlet fever. One night she stayed by her daughter's bed and prayed all night until the fever broke the next morning.

Norma Kiser Morris is a whiz at spelling, grammar, and games and has never lost her zest for life. She enjoys all card games (bridge, cribbage, whist, etc.) as well as games like scrabble. She contributed to the annual bake sale at St. Andrew's Centre until her 100th birthday. Norma is very independent and maintains her dignity. She remembers every birthday in her family and finds it awesome to have forty members in her immediate family! She came into the world at the time of horse and buggy and since then has witnessed more technological events than she could have ever imagined. All the inventions have been enjoyed, but she refuses to learn the computer. "Enough is enough!"

On her 100th birthday, Norma received honors from Pope John Paul, Queen Elizabeth, Canada's Governor General, the Prime Minister, Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, the Alberta Premier, Edmonton's Mayor and many friends. "Always a lady—always a leader!"





Gentry Ohler

born November 21, 1894

*He was also the first local farmer to own
a diesel tractor which he acquired in
1935 and used for the next 15 years.*

Gentry Ohler was born November 21, 1894 in Adrian, Missouri, the only son of Carrie and Riley Ohler. In 1907, the family moved from the United States by train and settled in the Stavely district. Gentry attended the Mountain Peak, Balfour, Prairie Dell and Stavely town schools, but mainly in the winter months as he was needed to help on the farm in busier months. Upon completion of school, he also attended the Agricultural College in Claresholm.

In 1922, Gentry married Cora Nelson, the daughter of Ellen and Andrew Nelson of Stavely. Cora and Gentry made their home six miles east of Stavely where they farmed and raised Angus cattle. They raised five children: Bert, Neil, Blanche (Hall), Ray and Roger. Back in the twenties, Gentry bought one of the area's first combines, a 20-foot Holt which was pulled by 16 strong horses. However, after a wet fall in 1927, he purchased a "30 Cat" to make things run easier. He was also the first local farmer to own a diesel tractor which he acquired in 1935 and used for the next 15 years. After their move into Stavely in 1945, Gentry continued to be active in the farm work for a number of years. Gentry and Cora always took an interest and active part in the activities of the community. Many pleasant hours were spent at the Golden Age Centre. They always raised a huge garden and shared their produce with many. Gentry had a vegetable garden as well as strawberries, raspberries and apples in his 99th year. He maintained his driver's license and drove himself around up until his 100th birthday.

Gentry was predeceased by an infant son, Stewart, in 1928, his mother in 1941, his father in 1956 and his wife, Cora in 1988. When he reached 100 years in 1994, all remaining 65 descendants were in attendance to help him celebrate, including 15 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren. Following his 100th birthday, Gentry moved to

the Porcupine Hills Lodge. He still goes to Stavely several times a week to play bridge, cribbage, shuffleboard, or for whatever is going on. He enjoys trips to the country to see the crops and cattle and to visit with the family.

Life for Gentry at the lodge is just fine and he really appreciates the kindness shown him by the staff. For his 103rd birthday in 1997 lodge residents chipped in and bought Gentry a 40-ounce bottle of Crown Royal whisky—a decent supply for his once-a-day habit of having one rye and ginger drink before supper to help keep his heart healthy. When he lifted the bottle out of its wrapping Gentry said, “I wish I could pour everybody a drink.”



He's known to be a bit of a card-shark and, in keeping with that title, he never tips his hand. “I'm just average I guess,” Gentry said when asked about his card playing abilities. “I just play cards to pass the time away. You've got to get rid of the time somehow.”

In reflection, Gentry said there isn't anything he missed in his 103 years. “I've done about everything I need to,” he said. “I never expected to be around this long you know. I figured that I would go before my wife. We had everything made out that way (in the will). I was seven years older than her...I'll be around for a while yet anyway.”



Enrichetta Pozzi

born September 30, 1900

"I thought radio, telephone and television were technological advances, but it was nothing compared to watching men land on the moon."

Enrichetta Pozzi was born on September 30, 1900, the first of five daughters, to Rosa Bestetti and Carlo Montonati, in Menzago, Province Varese, Italy. She had only a few years of schooling and at the age of 12 was forced to work in a factory to help support her family. Her parents had arranged her marriage to a boy she had only met once and who was now living in Hillcrest, Alberta. All Enrichetta's belongings were packed into a single trunk, and she embarked on a ship to New York City, then traveled by train to Blairmore, Alberta, where she arrived on November 4, 1920. Enrichetta then walked six miles from Blairmore to Hillcrest. On November 7, 1920, she married

Luigi Pozzi, a loving, caring man. Luigi worked in the coalmines at Frank, Lille and Hillcrest.

On January 25, 1922 their son Veno was born; it was a bitterly cold winter and in order to try and keep the baby warm, Enrichetta filled the cracks in her small wooden house with paper. Their loving and devoted daughter, Eride Rose, arrived on Valentine's Day in 1928. Enrichetta adapted to her new way of life in Canada. She was a very smart lady and taught herself to speak, read and write English fluently. She became famous for her amazing Italian dinners and her great recipes—especially her antipasto. She also became noted for her feather pillows, crocheting and quilts. At 90, she would think nothing of preparing a meal for 20 people! In 1946, Enrichetta's son Veno married Eileen (Hoyle). They had three daughters: Anne, Kerry and Patricia. Enrichetta's three granddaughters were the love of her life.

Being a strong-willed woman with a lust for life, Enrichetta always had the strength to move forward with love in her heart. Praying faithfully and attending church, she accepted life as it was. On July 20, 1969, she said, "I thought radio, telephone and television were technological advances, but it was nothing compared to watching men land on the moon."

Enrichetta remembers buying their first home in Hillcrest with a furnace, indoor plumbing and a bathroom. Shortly after Luigi retired, they moved to Lethbridge. Money was still short so Enrichetta continued to take in ironing and also worked each fall in a canning factory. After Luigi's death, she moved to Calgary to live with her daughter Eride. Enrichetta was married to Luigi for 47 years.

Enrichetta became a great grandmother eight times and a great-great grandmother twice. Being a wonderful grandmother, she was always there to help and care for her grandchildren well into her nineties. Her faith and family continue to be her most important reason for living.





Annie Reichenbaugh

born June 17, 1899

*In today's age of fast cars, telephones,
electricity, electronics and many
recreations, Annie recalls spending her
courting days with Floyd enjoying simple
pleasures.*

Annie Bowman Reichenbaugh was born on June 17, 1899 in Campbeltown, Argyll, Scotland. Her parents were Thomas and Janet McNab. She was the fourth child in a family of seven, of which she is the only surviving member. In 1909, she emigrated with her family from Scotland to Canada. When she landed in St. John, New Brunswick, her first reaction to Canada was to notice that the houses were very different—they were painted in bright colors. From St. John the family traveled by train to Edmonton, arriving there in April 1909. Annie received her education in

Edmonton. After high school she went to Camrose Normal School where she attained a teaching certificate at the age of 17.

In 1916, she got her first teaching position at Elgin School north of Marwayne. The trip to the Elgin District was quite an experience for a city girl! It took her all day, only stopping for meals, to travel approximately 22 miles before she finally made it to the Charles Reichenbaugh homestead where she was to board. Annie taught at Elgin in 1916 and 1917. From there she went to Stony Plain to teach for one year. She never taught again until 1968 when her grandson-in-law was in desperate need of a grade two teacher in Altario, so she taught her great-great grandson at the age of 69. She also substitute taught for the Marwayne School until she was 75.

On December 11, 1918, Annie married Floyd Reichenbaugh in Edmonton. In today's age of fast cars, telephones, electricity, electronics and many recreations, Annie recalls spending her courting days with Floyd enjoying simple pleasures. Floyd and Annie spent many happy hours down at Lea Park by the Vermilion River, where they got the mail, fished and played ball; some of the young people also enjoyed using the swimming hole there. They made their home in the Elgin District; it was very plain and rough, built from logs cut by Floyd across the river and sawed at a local sawmill. They had no luxuries but had high

hopes of improving their situation. Annie was always very busy: she taught Sunday school, worked for the war effort (her father was a veteran), and boarded the teacher for 17 years. At that time, the school was the center of the community. It was a place of learning and a place of worship, a place for business meetings, and the center of social events. The Christmas concert was one of the main community events.

Floyd and Annie had one daughter, Lorna, in 1920. Lorna married Lorne Franklin in 1940 and had six children. Floyd passed away in 1957, and in 1958 Annie moved to Marwayne. She was employed by the Marwayne Co-op as a part-time store-clerk for many years until it closed. She attended the Marwayne United Church for 36 years and was a lifetime member of the U.C.W. Annie also belonged to the Marwayne Seniors for more than 30 years. In 1994, she fell and severely broke her arm. She then moved to the Pioneer Lodge in Lloydminster where she still resides.

Annie played a major role in her daughter's life. She always loved the children. Education was very important to Annie and she stressed the importance of it. She felt that everyone should have a good education and encouraged us to learn and crave knowledge. Annie is very proud of her family accomplishments. She has five grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, two step great grandchildren and 16 great-great grandchildren.

Submitted by her granddaughter, Adele Harvie.





Edith Marion Rutledge

born April 26, 1898

*... from horse drawn carriages and dirt
roads to motorized vehicles and
pavement.*

Edith Marion Rutledge was a rare Albertan, not just because of her generosity and her vivacious personality, but also because she lived through an entire century. Born in Point Edward, Ontario, as the eldest daughter of four children to John and Margaret Kipp on April 26th, 1898, the family headed west across Canada via the Canadian Pacific Railway when Edie was just 11 years old. They settled in Moosejaw, Saskatchewan in 1909 for a short time and then traveled to Fort Macleod, Alberta. At 16 years old, Edie would settle in Lethbridge, Alberta, where she would spend the rest of her life.

Edie attended high school in Lethbridge where she challenged herself with a variety of sports activities. She also acquired business-related skills which she utilized later

in life as a volunteer. She met her husband Roy Rutledge and the couple were married in 1923. They had two children, Lorraine and Robert. Edie and her husband lived in the same house on the same street together for over 72 years until Roy passed away in 1995.

During her years of raising two children, Edie was extremely active in the community. She always said she needed “to keep herself out of trouble!” Edie was an eager volunteer for over 70 years for such organizations as the YMCA, the Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization, and the Southminster Church. Her duties included camp director at the Camp Inuspi at Waterton National Park, Sunday school teacher, and secretary. In 1983, Edie was recognized by the YWCA and awarded the “Woman of the Year” distinction which is a highly acclaimed award.

Edie’s passion, however, was her love for people and music. You always knew where you stood with Edie because she would always tell you. Her honesty and straight forwardness made Edie who she was and because of that she had many friends. Edie provided music by playing the piano for dances and singsongs during the war. She also played the piano for fitness classes at the Senior Center. Her energy was insurmountable and she never missed a day of volunteering. She put in thousands of hours and loved every minute of it.

Edie volunteered her services until she was 97 years old. Lethbridge, Alberta was recently awarded the best community in Canada for seniors. It is because of contributors like Edie that made that award possible.

Throughout her 101 years, Edie saw many things looking out her porch window over this passing century, from horse drawn carriages and dirt roads, to motorized vehicles and pavement. She watched as electricity emerged and planes began to fly. She listened to the radio when the world was at war. Edie heard about the tragedy of the Titanic sinking into the ocean and when astronauts landed on the moon.

Edith M. Rutledge always lived her life to the fullest with her talents and energy and spirited smile. Her determination and commitment to the Lethbridge community appears unconquerable. She is cherished by many friends, family and children alike. Her spunk and good heartedness, and the sound of her piano will always be remembered. Edith passed away at the age of 101 on September 7, 1999.

*Written by her daughter Lorraine Elliott and
family friend Karen Smith.*



Helen Shandruk

born September 4, 1899

“When you go to bed, go there to sleep. Don’t worry about anything,” was her advice to me. “Sleeping has kept me healthy. I can sleep for hours. I love my sleep. It’s the best medicine.”

When I met one of our town’s dearest characters this week, the very first thing I noticed was a slight trace of a Scottish accent. Remarkable, given Helen Shandruk hasn’t been in her native country since 1909. But what I found even more remarkable was this 97-year-old woman’s first comment to me. “Do I hear an Aussie accent?” When I nodded, she added: “I thought so.” This coming from a woman whose hearing is definitely not what it used to be. Helen definitely still has her wits about her. I had the privilege of meeting her on her 97th birthday last Wednesday (September 4) when the staff of the Mineral Springs Hospital auxiliary care unit put on a bit of a party for her. By the time I arrived, she was getting a little weary so we kept our chat short and brief. She laughed when I asked her if she had any special tricks up her sleeve for living such a long and healthy life. “When you go to bed, go there to sleep. Don’t worry about anything,” was her advice to me. “Sleeping has kept me healthy. I can sleep for hours. I love my sleep. It’s the best medicine.” Helen also said it’s important to stay young at heart. “I have always enjoyed life and I still enjoy life. Time never seems long, even now. I can still manage to fill in my day,” she added.

Born in 1899, Helen came to Canada from Scotland with her family when she was 10. They moved to Calgary where her father worked on a rifle range, and shortly after, they moved to Banff where her father was in charge

of the zoo. Helen's father died of influenza at age 59. Her mother then supported the family by working at the Upper Hot Springs.

Helen went to school until Grade 9, but left because she didn't like it very much. She preferred to swim or dance, would often go to community dances at Bankhead "and stay there all night and dance the night away." After she left school, she worked in the post office during the summer months and at the Hudson Bay store in Calgary, and eventually became assistant postmistress. After 28 years at the post office, she worked seven years for the Luxtons at the Indian Trading Post. She was also a fixture at the Whyte Museum, helping tourists for more than 20 years. "I always had all the right answers," she quipped.

Helen met George Shandruk at Arthur Edmond's hardware store when he was a reporter doing a story for The Banff Crag and Canyon. She married him in 1948. George died two years ago. "One of our favorite spots used to be Vermilion Lakes. We'd love to park the car, and sit there and relax," she recalled with a smile. "I had such a happy and fortunate life."

During our short chat, Helen also had plenty to say on the changes in Banff—some good, some not so good. When she first arrived in town there were just 450 residents, and everyone knew each other. "I still love it here, but people don't stay here long anymore. They used to stay for years. Now people come and go quickly," she said.

Kim Forrest, of the auxiliary care unit, had plenty of wonderful things to say about Helen. "It's so nice to have someone here who sees everything in such a positive light. Having such a positive person to work with is so wonderful. It doesn't often happen in an institution," she said. Helen turned 101 on September 4, 1999.

Written by Cathy Ellis, 1996.





Olive Slempp

born December 13, 1899

For several years, Olive had no electrical appliances or a power washing machine.

Olive Slempp was born on December 13, 1899 in Waterloo, Quebec, and arrived in Alberta around 1907 or 1908. She married Leo Slempp on March 5, 1919, and they were married for 51 years. Leo and Olive lived three miles southeast of Fleet, Alberta, where they raised their family of five. (Olive also had three other baby boys who did not survive.) For several years, Olive had no electrical appliances or a power washing machine. During the harvest season, she would go with the crew to cook their meals while Leo threshed the neighbors' crops.

After retiring to Castor, Olive liked to work in her vegetable and flower gardens. She also embroidered many pillowcases and luncheon cloths for daughters and granddaughters. Olive was the grandmother of 14, great grandmother of 23, and great-great grandmother of three. Olive was a quiet, gentle person who has always put her family's welfare ahead of her own. As our mother we love her very much. Olive passed away on August 26, 2000.



Charles Wood

born March 24, 1900



Charles landed a job with the new Red Deer radio station CKLC. He soon became both operator and announcer at the station.

Charles Wood was born May 24, 1900 in Glasgow, Scotland. In 1904, his family immigrated to the United States and resided in New York City. They moved to Canada in 1909 and lived briefly in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan before landing in Calgary. After several years, the family settled in Red Deer, Alberta in 1918. By this time, Charles had left school and was working for a living. At one point, he assisted his uncle, the Reverend George Wood, in constructing the second and enlarged version of the Wood's Christian Home orphanage in Olds, Alberta.

By the early 1920s the electronic magic of radio had arrived and local stations were

springing up in cities like Edmonton and Calgary. Even smaller towns like Red Deer were anxious to join the rush. Charles, always intrigued with electronic apparatus, began building radio sets. In 1923, he married Geneva Eldridge, whose family had recently emigrated from North Dakota. In 1926, Charles landed a job with the new Red Deer radio station CKLC. He soon became both operator and announcer at the station.

In 1929, the Woods moved to Lethbridge where Charles assisted in setting up another new station, CJOC. About this same time, he began repairing radios. This eventually led to repairing the new Hammond electronic organs that were gaining popularity in smaller churches and institutions. The Woods, by now numbering four with daughters Doris and Marilyn, moved to Calgary in 1942. Heintzman & Co. employed Charles until retirement in 1971.

Charles and Geneva moved to the George Boyack Nursing Home in 1986. Geneva passed away in 1992 predeceased by daughter Doris in 1989. Today, Charles' family consists of daughter Marilyn, two sons-in-law: Fred Bagel and Don Culled, three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and at least five great-great grandchildren. Charles passed away on January 15, 2000.







Remarkable Albertans



Remarkable Albertans





Elsie Broadfield

born February 2, 1898

*Elsie is known for her fierce
independence.*

Elsie was born on February 2, 1898 in Scotland. In 1929, Elsie moved to Canada to join her brother who lived in Vancouver and a twin sister who lived in Brandon, Saskatchewan. Elsie married in 1923 and was blessed with one son and one daughter. Her husband died in 1958 upon returning from the war. They had been married for 35 years.

Elsie was mainly a housewife but she also worked outside the home babysitting. She was a member of the West Hillhurst Go Getters and the Parkdale United Church. Elsie is known for her fierce independence. She has an outgoing personality and a great sense of humor. She enjoys going on tours, knitting and bingo. She also loved to go outdoors for walks, reading and bowling. Today, Elsie needs total assistance with dressing and some assistance with eating but she remains independent wheeling herself around in the unit.





Lan-Fong Chow

born August 17, 1897

relatives. Lan-Fong has a huge family and even though she is over 100 years old, she can recognize not only the name of each of her descendants, but also remembers where they live and can tell you the time difference between the two places!

For the past 60 years, Lan-Fong has been living with her son and her daughter-in-law. At the age of 103, she still takes care of herself and does almost everything on her own. She dresses herself every morning, comes down to the family room and chats all morning with her daughter-in-law, who is also retired. After lunch, she likes to sit on her favorite couch and watch TV. Her favorite show is the Price-Is-Right. Her favorite channels are the Cooking Channel and the Travel Channel. She usually takes a bath while her daughter-in-law cooks dinner. Other than daily healthy Chinese food, her favorite food is Kentucky Fried Chicken for dinner and occasionally loves a chocolate dipped soft ice-cream cone for dessert.

To her children, Lan-Fong is a sincere mother. To her grandchildren, she is a lovely grandmother. To her great grandchildren, Lan-Fong is a sweet and adorable great grandmother who earns the most hugs and kisses. We are very proud and happy to have her with us for the millennium and beyond.

Lan-Fong has a huge family and even though she is over 100 years old, she can recognize not only the name of each of her descendants, but also remembers where they live and can tell you the time difference between the two places!

Mrs. Lan-Fong Chow was born in Toishan, China in August 17, 1897. Before moving to Canada about 20 years ago, she lived in Hong Kong. Lan-Fong has two children, her son Quon and her daughter May. Both children reside with her in Calgary, Alberta. At present, she has seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and countless numbers of close



Barbara Deg

born April 2, 1895



Barbara Deg was born on April 2nd 1895 in Russia. She arrived in Alberta in October 1947. She was married for 49 years, until her husband passed away. She is the proud mother of nine children, two boys and seven girls. She has 22 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

Barbara's most memorable moments were as each child, grandchild or great grandchild arrived into the family. Her fondest memories include the years of life on a farm in Saskatchewan: her life with her husband who was very good to her, her 100th birthday party when more than 100 people were seated to a lovely dinner. The guests included family, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews from all over Canada.

Her favorite sport is hockey. Her hobbies have included embroidery, crocheting, quilting and gardening until she was 90 years old. Her favorite recipe was cut out cookies at Christmas for her grandchildren, pyrogies and borsch soup.



*Barbara's most memorable moments
were as each child, grandchild or great
grandchild arrived into the family.*

Antonia
Faraschuk

born September 22, 1900

Haircuts were 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children.

Antonia was born in a log cabin on September 22, 1900 in Leduc, Alberta to William and Anna Yawney. In 1906, her parents purchased a homestead two miles east and three miles south of the present town of Thorsby. She enjoyed working outdoors with her father, clearing the land and hauling the willow posts to Leduc for two cents a post. There weren't any roads to Leduc, just Indian Trails through bush and swamps.

On February 18, 1918, Antonia married Mike Faraschuk. In 1929, they were one of the first families to venture into business in Thorsby. The Thorsby Billiard Hall and Barber Shop were constructed on the east side of Thorsby's main street. Haircuts were 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children. In 1931, the John Deere Agency was established.

Thorsby homes and businesses were originally illuminated by gas lamps. Then came the electric power supplied by a Delco generator. The electricity was limited from dawn until midnight. The blinking of lights at 11:45 p.m. indicated that in 15 minutes...it was lights out.

Antonia and Mike were active in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They commissioned a painting of the "Last Supper" for the church. In 1945, the Ladies Club joined the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada. Antonia was honoured to serve as the first President of the local chapter.

Antonia had many memories and recollections of membership in the Thorsby Red Cross in the early 1940s. She knitted, sewed and quilted for the war effort. Antonia loved crafts and made more than 200 rugs. She was also an avid curler and enjoyed bingo.

Antonia's husband Mike passed away in August 1964. Antonia resided at the Father Lacombe Home in Calgary until she passed away on December 31, 1999. Antonia's son Nick (Laura) lives in Colfax, Washington, and her daughter, Louise (Frank), grandson, Michael (Jenny) and three great grandchildren still reside in Spokane, Washington, United States.





Ingeborg Haugen

born July 12, 1897

*Her memory and speech are as good
today as they were 50 years ago.*

Ingeborg Haugen was born July 12, 1897 in Valle, Norway. She arrived in Alberta in September 1939. She was married to Olav Haugen for 24 years and is the proud mother of one, grandmother of three, and great grandmother of seven.

Her memory and speech are as good today as they were 50 years ago. She still looks forward to each new day. She has lived into January 2000 and she is happy to say she has lived in three centuries.





Tea Margrita Naslund

born March 26, 1900

*Her favorite hobby is reading, although
she only has a sixth-grade education.*

Tea was born on March 26, 1900 in Trehonegsho, Sweden, and she arrived in Alberta in September 1924. Tea was married for 60 years and is the proud mother of six, grandmother of 23, and great grandmother of 37; she is expecting her first great-great grandchild in April 2000.

Her fondest memories are of Sweden, her husband, and “Daddy”. Her favorite hobby is reading, although she only has a sixth-grade education. Her favorite recipe is for lutefish.



Sarah Shafer

born December 16, 1895

*She stayed in her own home until 101
years of age without medicine, canes or
walkers.*

Sarah Shafer (or Grandma Shafer as she was called by almost everyone) was a grand lady. She was born on December 16, 1895 in Nebraska, and arrived in Alberta in 1902. She was the mother of one, grandmother of six, and great grandmother of 24. Grandma Shafer raised five of her grandchildren herself while she was working on a ranch south of Czar, Alberta. My husband George was her oldest grandchild, and she raised him!

Grandma Shafer was known for her green thumb and for the ability to have a bottomless supply of food. She stayed in her own home until 101 years of age without medicine, canes or walkers. She drove her standard truck until the age of 92. It would be nice to be able to have her energy and endurance at any age—Grandma Shafer was a remarkable person. God bless her! On December 12, 1999 Grandma Shafer passed away at the age of 104.

By Elise Sannachan.



Marion Sarah Smith

born March 3, 1896

She has always lived a Christian life and reads her bible daily.

Marion Smith (nee Church) was born on March 3, 1896 to Thomas and Martha Church in Johnville, Quebec. Both Thomas' and Martha's forebears had come to Canada from the British Isles early in the 1800s. They homesteaded in the Eastern Townships, an area just north of Vermont on the United States border. This is a beautiful part of Canada.

Marion had a happy childhood with her two brothers and large extended family. She still speaks of the "sugaring off," Bishops College, the "sugar bush," Lennoxville, and the lazy St. Francis River that flooded one spring and took out the mill. I mention these places and events only because they are as clear and dear to her as they were 100 years ago.

Marion married Ernest Smith, and the couple moved west with their daughter Joyce in 1928. They bought a dairy farm on the southern outskirts of Edmonton where a second daughter Helen was born. They spent 18 years on the farm before moving to the city, and then retired to Courtenay on Vancouver Island.

Marion has always enjoyed music. In her early years she sang in the church choir. She has always played the piano and continues to do so to the present day.

Today, Marion resides in Edmonton. She is a gentleperson, patient and a wonderful mother, grandmother to five and great grandmother to 10. She has always lived a Christian life and reads her bible daily.

By her daughter, Helen Breckenridge.





Marie Rose Spycher

born May 29, 1892

*On May 29, 2000 Marie celebrated her
108th birthday.*

Marie Rose (Zimmerman) Spycher was born in Marysville, Kansas on May 29, 1892. Her family came to Alberta in March 1908. Marie lived and worked on the farm all her life. She was married on December 21, 1914 and raised a family of six. Marie was married for 58 years and now has 19 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Besides caring for her family, Marie was also active in the church, enjoyed entertaining, and was a very talented quilter, she made many throughout the years. The family all have many doilies that she crocheted, a talent that she really misses now since arthritis has made it impossible for her to use a crochet hook.

Marie makes her home at Bentley Extended Care. She is able to be up and about; she enjoys her meals, having company, and reminiscing about the olden days. Most days she walks to the dining room (with the aid of a walker) and sometimes she feels “lazy” and accepts a ride in the wheelchair (but not very often). For her age, Marie is in remarkably good health, for which we as a family are very thankful. On May 29, 2000 Marie celebrated her 108th birthday.



William Tiedemann

born October 1, 1900

*Bill's hobbies were spinning wood and
knitting and whittling, making small
farm wagons, sleighs, and cutlery, to log
buildings.*

Bill Tiedemann was born in Tobor, Minnesota in 1900. In 1907, his family came to Walsh, Alberta. In 1919, Bill's parents, eight brothers, and two sisters moved to Tofield. He enjoyed sports, especially baseball, in which he played pitcher. He also enjoyed music and dancing. He played the violin, clarinet and mouth organ. Bill's hobbies were spinning wood and knitting and whittling, making small farm wagons, sleighs, and cutlery, to log buildings.

Bill married his wife Mary in 1936 and had one son John and one daughter Sharon. He farmed in the Deville and Tofield areas until 1979 when he retired and bought a home in Tofield. He is the last remaining member of his own family and in October 1999 he will be 99 years old and will have been married 63 years. He has spent three good years in long term care and enjoys playing cribbage and recalling olden days with friends and visitors.



Verna Wheeler

born October 18, 1898

She was great on education and saw that

her sons attended college and all three

became schoolteachers ...

Verna Olive Adams was born in Aetna, Alberta, Canada on October 18th, 1898, daughter of John Edmund Adams and Margaret Wiggill. While still an infant she moved with her family to Kimball, Alberta, Canada. She attended public school in Kimball and attended high school in Cardston, Alberta.

At the age of 19 she married Nephi Lincoln Wheeler and they made their home in Kimball, Alberta. She is the mother of three sons, Vern Leroy Wheeler, Jay Edmund Wheeler and Grant Leonard Wheeler. She was great on education and saw that her sons attended college and all three became schoolteachers and had successful careers as educators. All three sons served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War.

In her later years, she worked in a jewelry store in Cardston and made many friends. She is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and in her younger years did volunteer work in the church and actively participated in promoting the arts, particularly drama. She was always an avid reader and has well educated herself by reading the works of many well-known authors. She has traveled extensively in the United States, Hawaii and in the British Isles where she was able to visit in England the village of her ancestors. She had good health throughout her life until the last few years and she celebrated her 102nd birthday on October 18th, 2000.



Other Centenarians

The Albertans included in the following section were among those who turned 100 years of age or older in the year 2000. The potential that the new century holds for Alberta is promising because of the work that these seniors and all Albertans have done in building the strong and vibrant province we have today. These individuals were presented with certificates to recognize them for experiencing the entire 20th century.

♣ Bodnar, Helen

June 6, 1899 to November 9, 1999

♣ Boucher, Daisy May

March 29, 1899

♣ Bowman, Martha

November 22, 1900

♣ Carnahan, Vera

April 3, 1900

♣ Cash, Maude

July 17, 1896

♣ Cyr, Luella

January 18, 1899

♣ Duff, Mary

April 19, 1897

♣ Frey, Coradella

March 9, 1900

♣ Gilbert, Laura Anne

September 19, 1900 to January 29, 2000

♣ Johnstone, Irene

June 24, 1900 to March 31, 2000

♣ Jorgensen, Marie

December 5, 1900

♣ Kasper, Rozalia

May 11, 1899

♣ Koyama, Kinu

August 25, 1896 to March 16, 2000

♣ Krenzel, Eva

June 29, 1896

♣ LeMasurier, Vera

December 3, 1900

♣ Lyle, Doris May

July 28, 1900

♣ Madge, Margaret E.

February 4, 1900 to May 24, 2000

♣ Mann, Beatrice

March 24, 1892

♣ Mah, Fong

September 27, 1895

♣ Mayo, Etta

July 3, 1899

♣ McComish, Annie

October 28, 1899

♣ Mcdonald, Alice

April 22, 1899

♣ Morley, Amelia

June 21, 1900

♣ Moro, George

January 13, 1900 to January 21, 2000

♣ Parker, Frances

July 2, 1895 to September 24, 2000

♣ Nelson, Ingeborg

December 11, 1899

♣ Parr, Margaret

October 20, 1900

♣ Paziuk, Anna

December 21, 1900

♣ Perry, Jean

February 7, 1900

♣ Remfert, Edward

July 24, 1896 to January 25, 2000

♣ Roffey, Bessie

March 2, 1897

♣ Robeznieks, Marta

June 13, 1900 to January 29, 2000

♣ Roland, Ulah

March 24, 1900 to January 19, 2000

♣ Scott, Florence

January 22, 1900 to November 28, 1999

♣ Tela, Marian

August 13, 1900

♣ Toms, Mona

February 13, 1895

♣ Warren, Mary Edith

January 25, 1900

♣ Underhill, Beatrice

February 23, 1898 to January 1, 2000

♣ Watts, Doris

May 24, 1899 to April 27, 2000

♣ Wylie, Roy

August 24, 1900 to March 6, 2000

♣ Youngblood, Hanna Carrie

May 5, 1896



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✚ Morley, Amelia

June 21, 1900

✚ Moro, George

January 13, 1900 to January 21, 2000

✚ Parker, Frances

July 2, 1895 to September 24, 2000

✚ Nelson, Ingeborg

December 11, 1899

✚ Parr, Margaret

October 20, 1900

✚ Paziuk, Anna

December 21, 1900

✚ Perry, Jean

February 7, 1900

✚ Remfert, Edward

July 4, 1896 to January 25, 2000

✚ Rolley, Bessie

March 2, 1897

✚ Robeznieks, Marta

June 13, 1900 to January 29, 2000

✚ Roland, Ulah

August 26, 1899 to January 20, 1990

✚ Scott, Frances

January 22, 1899 to November 29, 1990

✚ Tela, Maria

August 21, 1895

✚ Jones, Mary

December 11, 1899

✚ Warren, Ruth (1899)

January 15, 1899

✚ Frederick, William

November 22, 1899 to January 2, 2000

✚ Taylor, David

March 1899 to November 19, 1990

✚ White, Mary

August 19, 1899 to September 19, 1990

✚ Yonckman, William (1899)

August 1899

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